

THE TIMES

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PAGE 5

Tories attack 'smokescreen for Cook'

Mandelson accused of fixing news

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was accused last night of leaking details of a security investigation into Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, and playing politics with the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, to deflect attention from Robin Cook's marriage break-up.

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said yesterday that the tactics were evidence that the Government had cynically manipulated the media. "This weekend we have seen them point the finger at the reputation of Chris Patten and play politics with the royal yacht for no better reason than to divert attention from a number of unfavourable stories and the loss of the Uxbridge by-election," he said.

The operation is being directed from No 10 on behalf of the Prime Minister. His hands are not clean just because he is in Tuscany."

As Mr Patten spoke out for the first time last night Downing Street confirmed that the police were not involved in the inquiry, which was described as a Foreign Office internal investigation.

Only 24 hours earlier, as details of the Foreign Secretary's affair with his Commons secretary became known, Labour spin doctors had briefed the BBC that if reporters asked Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, the right questions on *The World This Weekend* on Radio 4, he would confirm that an investigation was under way.

Jon Sopel, a BBC political



"Well, it's goodnight from me and it's goodnight from him"

correspondent, confirmed on the same radio programme that Labour spin doctors had tried to talk up the Patten story. Labour officials were understandably anxious about how the Cook marriage break-up would play in the media," he said.

Mr Mandelson would give the right answer if he was asked the right question, he was told by the unnamed Labour spin doctor. "In other words, he would stand up the Sunday Times story."

The Times has learnt that the Foreign Office inquiry was ordered last month by Sir John Coates, the Permanent Secretary, with ministers. When the Foreign Office was approached by *The Sunday Times* on Saturday, officials declined to confirm the existence of the investigation and maintained the same stance.

all weekend until the Mandelson radio interview.

Last night, however, Mr Mandelson stood by his decision to confirm the investigation. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, will be given a report of the inquiry. Mr Mandelson said: "This is emphatically not a question of finding a scapegoat or of news management. The decision to investigate was taken by ministers last week because of the seriousness of the leak and its implications. Conveniently ignoring such evidence might have been good enough for the Tories, but it is not acceptable to us."

The disclosures about Mr Patten, who has been accused of passing classified documents to Jonathan Dimbleby, the author and broadcaster, came only 48 hours after the Uxbridge by-election setback for Labour. They were published on the same day that Tony Blair ordered an investigation into the suicide note of a Labour MP which blamed senior colleagues for a whistling campaign.

"We do not comment on sensitive security matters — ever," one senior Foreign Office source said last night. Mr Patten, speaking to the Reuters news agency at his home in the South of France last night, said: "Allegations made about the book are without foundation. I stand on my record. I left Hong Kong in extremely good condition."

In what the Tories claim was a second diversionary tactic by the Government, Mr

Continued on page 2, col 4



William Hague takes the plunge with personalised headgear — with him are Sebastian Coe and David Harris

Fresh look for Hague

WILLIAM HAGUE's mission to woo young voters prompted him to appear at a Cornish theme park yesterday sporting a personalised baseball cap (Poly Newton wires).

The Tory leader, who was

beginning a series of regional tours, went tie-less and wore a purple waterproof jacket for the visit to Flambards, near Helston on the Lizard. His cap bore the word "Hague" on the front and the Tories' latest

slogan, "A fresh future", on the back. Identical ones were donned by Sebastian Coe, former MP for Falmouth and Camborne and now on the staff of Mr Hague's private office, and David Harris, former MP for St Ives.

Mr Harris's cap did not stay

the course, however, and was blown from his head as the three men took a soaking on a water slide.

The Hague hats were com-

missioned through Conservative Central Office and several were handed out yesterday to members of the public in Cornwall. But, there are said to be no plans for a "tour 1-

shot".

The image consultant Mary Spillane, head of the Colour Me Beautiful company, was unimpressed by Mr Hague's choice, though she praised the decision to dress down and "look a little more with-it".



Back to the future:
the Hague message

Pilot and crew who saved 63 keep feet on ground

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AND PAUL WILKINSON

THE captain and crew of an airline which blocked much of Manchester's main runway after it crashed yesterday spoke publicly of the calm professionalism that saved the lives of 63 passengers.

Captain John Jones, 40, spent hours with air accident investigators from the Department of Transport as they attempted to discover why the port-side landing gear of the British Aerospace Advanced Turbo-Prop plane failed to lock shut as the aircraft took off for Knock in Eire, on Sunday night.

Early indications are that mechanical failure jammed the wheel against its housing.

Throughout the three-hour drama as the plane circled to use up fuel, the passengers — many of them on a pilgrimage to one of Ireland's most revered shrines — prayed and held hands as the crew rehearsed emergency drills.

Yesterday, although executives of British Regional Airlines, which owned the plane, tried to persuade the crew to speak, they refused. Paul Kuiper, the co-pilot, would only do so once the captain — who, he told investigators, had shown superb skill and judgement throughout — agreed to.

Mike Bathgate, the commercial director of BRA, said: "He was obviously shaken up by it all, but seemed very calm. He talked to the passengers after the landing to make sure everyone was all right, and then once he knew no one was seriously injured, he went off for some sleep. He does not regard himself as a hero; he just says it was a team effort and he is reluctant to take all the credit."

Captain Jones is married, and lives near Glossop.

Death-crash pilot, page 3

Silver for Briton in heptathlon

Debbie Lewis won Britain's first medal at the world athletics championships in Athens when she took silver behind Sabine Braun of Germany, in the heptathlon.

Lewis lay second after the long jump but in the javelin could not close the gap on Braun to have a chance of gold in the 800 metres final event. Page 44

Death at 122
Jeanne Calment, the world's oldest person, died in Arles, aged 122. Her life spanned the reigns of 20 French Presidents. Page 11

Heart attacks and traffic pollution linked in study

BY DAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of heart attacks may be caused by traffic pollution, according to a seven-year survey of cardiac patients.

One of the most comprehensive studies made of the subject found a clear link between air pollution and one in 50 heart attack patients treated in London hospitals. This was equivalent to 6,000 cases in Britain each year, most of them due to preventable exhaust fumes.

The doctors, led by Jan Polliczki from the Department of Public Health Sciences at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, based their findings on the 37,556 admissions to London hospitals for circulatory diseases between 1987 and 1994.

These were compared against daily measurements throughout this period for ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sul-

phur dioxide, carbon monoxide and black smoke. Other factors such as temperature, humidity, day of the week and the 1989 influenza epidemic were all taken into account.

They found that, although an average of 145 cases were admitted each day there was a marked increase on the days after a surge in the pollution counts for everything except ozone. All the other pollutants were strongly linked with an increase in heart attacks. Significantly, although less consistent, associations were also found between black smoke and angina and between nitrogen dioxide and heart rhythm disturbances.

Carbon monoxide was a particular cause for concern because this gas compromises the way in which oxygen is circulated round the body. This could put an extra strain on anyone with an already susceptible heart during any form of exertion. This meant that people pushing power mowers and breathing the exhaust from them were at special risk.

The report in *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* says that the evidence from the study shows links between vehicle emissions and circulatory diseases are "biologically plausible".

Further work is now needed to investigate the relationship between air pollution and heart attacks, it says.

Belinda Linden, cardiac nursing adviser at the British Heart Foundation, said: "This is an interesting study but needs to be treated with a certain amount of caution. Nobody would deny the link between pollution and lung disorders. When it comes to coronary heart disease it's more difficult."

"I'm project-driven," he

Lottery's public face steps down

BY JON ASHWORTH

DAVID RIGG, one of the founding directors of Camelot, the National Lottery operator, resigned yesterday in a surprise move that came just weeks after the latest damaging outcry over "fat-cat" pay.

Mr Rigg, Camelot's director of communications, will step down in October, taking with him a long-term incentive bonus of £50,000. The payment is the second instalment under a controversial scheme that plunged the lottery into crisis in May, provoking a showdown with Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, and very nearly forcing the resignation of the Camelot board.

Mr Rigg, 49, who was paid £333,000 last year, denied yesterday that his departure posed a threat to the lottery, adding that he believed now to be the logical time for him to step down.

"I'm project-driven," he

said. "I always have been, and it's the way I'm made, and that's what keeps me getting up in the morning. I need challenges."

He said his departure was not connected with doubts surrounding Camelot's licence, which comes up for renewal in September 2001, and Camelot sources said he had been considering his future for the past two years.

Mr Rigg has yet to secure another job, although he has received approaches over consultancy roles and in-house public relations posts.

A former long-serving director with De La Rue, the securities and banknote printer, he was assigned to the lottery project seven years ago, becoming the public face of Camelot.

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Director rides out, page 23

Commons cuts out barber in favour of hairdresser

BY POLLY NEWTON
AND ROBIN YOUNG

HAIRCUTS from Hampstead — with prices to match — are coming to the Commons. The contract to replace the barber who has given MPs short back and sides for the past 27 years has been awarded to a unisex hairdressing salon which will style, shape and even highlight the honourable members' crowning glory.

Tony and Penny Bergman, who have run John Simon in Hampstead for 20 years, will take over the shop in October when MPs return after the summer recess. They were selected from a short list after 48 applicants responded to newspaper advertisements.

The decision to turn the traditional House of Commons barber's shop into a unisex salon caused controversy earlier this year. Stephen Silverstone, 58, had run the shop for 27 years and was popular with MPs who wanted a quick, cheap and fuss-free haircut. He charged £4.25 for a dry cut and £3 for a shave.

The price of a dry cut under John Simon management is expected to be in the region of £7.95, while women who want a cut and blow dry will pay about £24. Mrs Bergman said yesterday: "We feel it's a great challenge and a prestigious and honourable position to be given."

The haircut revolution in Westminster may not be complete. The Hampstead salon also offers customers beauty treatments, reflexology and aromatherapy.

Mrs Bergman said she hoped the Commons would soon offer more than basic haircuts but conceded: "We have to go along with what MPs want."

Mrs Bergman said plans were already afoot to satisfy traditional male MPs who did not want a trim in front of female colleagues. She said that if a male customer insisted, staff would try to ensure that no women were booked in at the same time.

Four assessors, including a hairdressing adviser and a financial expert, visited each of the salons on the short list before the final decision was taken by the Sergeant at Arms. A source said: "They took into account a number of factors, including the range of services offered and the track record of the salons."

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Micro-peel

Micro-peeling

Micro-peeling

Micro-peeling

Micro-peeling

MP's relatives will not disclose suicide note

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT



ITHE family of Gordon McMaster, the Labour MP for Paisley South who was found dead in his car a week ago, said yesterday that they did not intend to publish the two-page suicide note in which he criticised two party figures. Mr McMaster is believed to have requested that the computer-printed letter be distributed to journalists.

A woman speaking on behalf of William and Alison McMaster said that they had no intention of publishing their son's letter and had no comment to make concerning its contents.

The letter, a copy of which has been passed to the Procurator Fiscal's office in Paisley along with a police report, is the subject of an inquiry by Nick Brown, the Labour Chief Whip. He was asked by Tony Blair at the weekend to investigate the circumstances of Mr McMaster's death.

The letter contains information about rumours about Mr McMaster that had allegedly circulated in the months before his death. Mr McMaster's closest political ally, Irene Adams, MP for Paisley North, said his political enemies had spread untrue rumours suggesting he was HIV-positive. There were also rumours that the 37-year-old unmarried MP was homosexual.

No official decision has been made by the Fiscal's office as to whether there will be a fatal

accident inquiry into Mr McMaster's death. His family is likely to be consulted.

Scotland has no system of inquests; fatal accident inquiries are the nearest equivalent. The local Procurator Fiscal has a duty to call one if someone dies in the course of employment or in custody but otherwise the decision on whether or not to hold a fatal accident inquiry is at his discretion and is usually made on public interest grounds.

Fatal accident inquiries are rare for incidents where there is no public policy issue. They are more wide-ranging than inquests. They are usually conducted by the local Sheriff and he has the power to call any witnesses he believes relevant to his inquiry. His recom-

mendations following the inquiry are binding.

The Fiscal also has the power to order police to investigate a particular aspect of the death and he can order other inquiries such as medical reports.

Mr McMaster, who had been suffering from depression and was being treated for ME, is said to name the Labour MP for West Renfrewshire, Tommy Graham, and the Labour peer Lord Dixon in his letter. Both men have denied spreading rumours or bearing any ill-will towards Mr McMaster.

Friends of the dead MP yesterday said that they felt guilty that they had been unable to save him. The Wigan MP, Roger Stott, said that a previous suicide bid by Mr McMaster had been hushed up. "He was in a very, very bad way towards the end," Mr Stott said. "To his friends in Annie's Bar, this was a disaster waiting to happen. I feel that I should have done more because I knew he was in such a bad state. I think we really ought to have tried harder."

Eric Clarke, MP for Midlothian, another friend of Mr McMaster, said: "I feel a bit guilty about not being close enough to turn to maybe have convinced him it wasn't a hopeless situation."

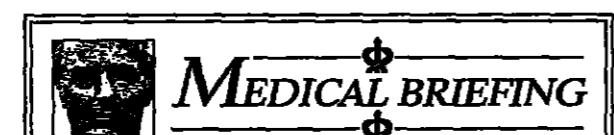
Leading article, page 17

Aches and illusions can be symptoms of depression

GORDON McMASTER had been suffering from depression for some time before his suicide. The task which the Labour Whips have set themselves — to discover the truth, if any, of his allegations — will be difficult.

Paranoid delusions occur in one in six depressed patients. These misconceptions often have their origins in a true incident which later becomes distorted and exaggerated in the patient's mind so that the final beliefs bear no relation to the original incident. As the condition deteriorates, so do they frequently find other evidence acceptable only to themselves, which confirms their initial delusion, and which they recount to others.

The general belief that paranoia is only a symptom of the schizophrenic illnesses



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

is mistaken and dangerous. Paranoid delusions in depressed patients often take the form of the illusion that the patient is being persecuted by colleagues and erstwhile friends.

It is not denied that Mr McMaster was a sensitive man who was depressed. His tragic mistake may have been to attribute his underlying health problems ills to organo-phosphate poisoning acquired when he was a gardener. There has been a tendency to attribute any ill-

defined set of symptoms occurring in agriculturists to this chemical, and many a true diagnosis has been missed.

If Mr McMaster had realised that physical symptoms such as headaches, muscular weakness, heavy legs, digestive problems, nausea, sore throats and breathlessness are also symptoms of depressive illnesses, as well as chronic fatigue syndrome, he could have had treatment which may have dispelled the depression and anxieties.

Mandelson 'fixed news'

Continued from page 1
Mandelson gave a strong signal that *Britannia* would be saved through a privately funded refit.

over the shareholdings of Lord Simon, the Trade Minister, has refused to die. On Thursday, Labour failed to win the Uxbridge by-election.

Party strategists feared that the news of the break-up of Mr Cook's 28-year marriage could finally take the gloss off the celebrations of the first 100 days. Sir Brian, in an interview yesterday on Radio 4's *The World at One*, said of the Patten case: "It is a Foreign Office inquiry. Who is the Foreign Secretary? Robin Cook. Has Robin Cook been in the news this weekend? Of course he has. They are trying to divert attention from stories

they do not want people to read."

There is media manipulation going on precisely to deflect attention from the Uxbridge by-election defeat, from the difficulties in the private lives of ministers, from the problems around Lord Simon and the suspension of

Mr Patten.

Mrs Cook, 50, issued a brief statement yesterday. She said:

"Whatever my husband's private life may have been, he has always been a very good member of Parliament and is a very good Foreign Secretary. These are the only matters of concern to the public."

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Redwood accuses Beckett on shares

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET BECKETT has been accused by the Tories of misleading the Commons over the shareholdings of Lord Simon of Highbury, the Trade Minister.

It has emerged that Mrs Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, was mistaken when she told Parliament last month that all the minister's non-BP shares were held in a blind trust. Administration delayed transfer of the former BP chairman's £14,000 shares in Grand Metropolitan.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, who has led the Tory cam-

paign for Lord Simon to dispose of his £2.15 million BP shares, yesterday published written answers from Mrs Beckett which he claimed revealed contradictions.

He has asked her in a letter: "If there had been a delay in the transfer, as the DTI is now suggesting, why did [her written answer] of July 23 not make it clear that the transfer had still not taken place? I can only conclude that you misled the House on more than one occasion."

A Downing Street spokesman said that the shares were now in the blind trust.

Residents delay hospital savings

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A HEALTH authority's attempt to save money by temporarily closing two cottage hospitals was blocked in the High Court yesterday. The ruling means that authorities will have to find time to consult with the public before implementing any plans to make savings by closures.

The consultation process, which the court ruled must take place, will inevitably last for several weeks and make it impossible to make savings in time for winter unless they start very soon. The test case was brought against a decision taken on June 4 by North

and East Devon Health Authority to shut two 15-bed hospitals at Lynford and Winsford from August 15. This would have saved £215,000 towards a predicted budget overrun of £2.2 million.

Because it was an emergency, the authority said there would be no formal consultations with the community health council nor the public. Mr Justice Moses ruled in the High Court that this failure "tainted" the decision. The case was brought by local residents dependent on the hospitals. The judge gave leave to appeal.

The tests were meant to assess officers' general policing ability, not their handling of race-sensitive situations. But a psychologist's report showed that candidates failed

because they misunderstood what the scenarios were about race relations.

The Home Office said yesterday: "It was a misguided attempt to standardise the examinations. Steps are being taken to reverse the decision and reinstate the ethnic minority role-players." The black actors were introduced originally at the suggestion of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Superintendent Glenn Hutton, head of the Police Promotions Examinations Unit, said there had been a "hiccup" in its procedures.

Police reverse black actor ban

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office last night vetoed police plans to abandon the use of black actors in promotion tests.

Officials acted after the Police Promotions Examination Board decided to drop black actors who were used in tests last year for constables hoping to become sergeants. The board decided to reset the examinations using only white actors.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamilton defence hearing to be on TV

Neil Hamilton will make a final attempt to clear his name when he appears before the Commons committee of MPs investigating the cash for questions affair. The hearing will be televised.

The former Trade Minister's role in the controversy, which cost four ministers their jobs, will be examined today at a private meeting of the Standards and Privileges Committee. Mr Hamilton wrote yesterday to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner, to accept an invitation to go before the committee to give his version of events, at a date yet to be decided. He will have to give evidence on oath.

Members of the committee have been recalled during the parliamentary recess to deliver their verdict on the role of Mr Hamilton, judged by Sir Gordon to have accepted at least £25,000 from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, in return for tabling Commons questions.

Strikers halt ferries

Islanders on Arran and Cumbrae, off the southwest coast of Scotland, were cut off from the mainland indefinitely yesterday when 120 Clyde ferrymen went on strike over the length of their working week. Negotiations were continuing last night. The organisers of the royal visit to Arran on August 9 hope the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will still visit the island during their annual Scottish tour. Transport and police vehicles for their visit were taken across to Arran on the ferry before the strike.

'Turn out' call to Scots

A £200,000 television and newspaper advertising campaign was launched by the Government yesterday aimed at securing a high turnout in the Scottish devolution referendum on September 11. A low turnout — putting the "don't knows" and "don't cares" in a majority — would be a "tragedy", Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said. The initiative follows the weekend decision by Scottish nationalists meeting in Perth to support the mainstream "yes" campaign, as well as mounting their own.

Pilot blamed for crash

Pilot error was to blame for the crash of an RAF Jaguar during training in Alaska last year, an official military inquiry has concluded. The pilot was so distracted by opposing aircraft that he failed to realise he was too close to the ground. He cut a 45ft swath through a wooded ridge, taking large amounts of debris into the engines, before ejecting safely. The inquiry into the crash, in July last year, concluded that the pilot allowed himself to be distracted by other aircraft while flying at just 100ft above the ground.

Sex abuser flees to US

A male nanny who sexually abused two boys in his care was at the centre of an international police hunt after fleeing Britain to avoid a prison sentence. Garry Cameron, 30, failed to appear at Lincoln Crown Court for sentencing and is believed to be in America. Judge Richard Jenkins jailed Cameron for 28 months in his absence and issued a warrant for his arrest. Lincolnshire police officers are now liaising with other forces in an attempt to locate him, a police spokesman said.

Nothing to do but hope and pray



It was calm for the first hour but then the tension got to people. They were just crying and shaking



The aircraft approaching the runway, top, scraping along the tarmac seconds later, left, before coming to a halt as the fire brigade rush to deal with the threat of an explosion. The firefighters smothered the sparking wreckage with blankets of foam and the crew and passengers escaped down the emergency chute with only two minor injuries reported

Air passengers spent three hours in fear for their lives

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE 63 passengers on the flight to Ireland, many of them pilgrims making for one of country's most popular religious sites, could do little more than say the rosary and pray during three hours of steadily mounting tension.

They had been told by the calm voice of Captain John Jones that there was a problem with the undercarriage and that they would be spending some time circling the Irish sea to burn off fuel before returning to Manchester for an emergency landing.

But when the co-pilot, Paul Kuiper, walked into the cabin, pulled back a section of carpet, unscrewed a small panel and reached into the bowels of the plane, the seriousness of their position began to sink in.

Captain Jones, a 40-year-old senior pilot with British Regional Airlines had expected a routine 45-minute flight from Manchester to Knock. The eight-year-old turbo-prop aircraft had completed a full check in May and was thought to be in the best condition.

Shortly before 5pm on Sunday evening Captain Jones gently lifted the nose of his



aircraft from runway 06 at Manchester and as the speed reached 100 miles an hour the co-pilot pulled the lever to retract the undercarriage.

Three green lights showed that the three legs of the undercarriage were locked down for the take-off run. After take-off the wheels should retract and the lights turn red, but on Sunday one remained stubbornly green indicating that the wheel was not fully retracted and therefore faulty.

The passengers were unaware of any problem but the two young men and one woman cabin crew knew better. On the flight deck the two pilots, both quiet and calm, took out their "abnormal emergency checklist" and followed the instructions for dealing with a landing gear malfunction.

They tried to lower it, then raise it again - but still the light remained on. Through a small perspex observation hole in the engine cowling the captain could see that the gear had not locked home. One of the cabin crew was called to the flight deck and briefed. He

and his colleagues had to calm the passengers.

Clearance to land after burning off fuel was granted by air traffic control. Like many of its kind, the British Aerospace ATP turbo-prop does not have a fuel dumping system.

To enable a safe landing, the pilots had to burn off almost all the fuel.

For hour after hour the aircraft circled while Captain Jones rehearsed in his mind the procedures he had learnt in a flight simulator. In the cabin, the passengers were beginning to feel the tension.

"It had all been calm for the first hour," one said. "But then the tension got to people. They were sitting at the back just crying and shaking."

A nun led some in prayer and repeated Hail Marys. Mary Ferrick, 84, sprinkled holy water over her grandson.

As the fire brigade stood by Captain Jones lined up the nose of the aircraft with runway 06. At just under 90 miles an hour the nose wheel and the locked-down right-hand wheel touched the tarmac almost simultaneously.

One wing was kept as high as possible until it was no longer possible to keep it from striking the ground. Then he slammed over the rudder to counteract the slewing effect on the aircraft, which by now was surrounded in sparks.

In an almost perfect straight line the aircraft came to a halt on the side of the runway to be surrounded by fire engines spraying foam on the flames.

The passengers were ordered to jump on to the slides.

Among them were a young couple on their way to their wedding in County Mayo. When the time came all the bride-to-be could think of was her wedding dress in the rack above her head.

There were only two people injured and they had just minor cuts and bruises.



David Bailey with Judith Padden and her bridal gown

My narrow escape in doomed light aircraft

Pilot Eve-Ann

Prentice reports
on the unease she
felt on an earlier
flight with couple
killed in crash

ing for long periods. Two other acquaintances of the Walls - who leave five sons - were also aboard the seven-seater aircraft and all of us on the flight were flying students or experienced pilots. All of us, including Mrs Wall, who was also qualified to fly the Cessna 421, were uneasy that the alarm continued as we prepared to land.

Mr Wall previously owned a smaller twin-engined Grumman Cougar. He made a forced landing on a golf course last year. "Don't believe the stories you hear about me running out of fuel," he said before we set off.

The ten-minute flight to North Weald in Essex was uneventful, although we made a relatively heavy landing. It was on our return to Elstree that Mr Wall, who had 3,000 hours flying experience but just seven hours on the Cessna, appeared tense. The alarm which warns of an imminent stall started sound-

position on the runway. We began a low-level circuit to try again. The alarm sounded yet again and I could see the flight instruments. The airspeed indicator showed we were at about 65-70 knots after climbing back into the circuit. The stalling speed is 66 knots.

Mr Wall needed to land the Cessna right at the end of the runway to leave enough distance to brake. We made an extremely heavy landing and my companion, a pilot of 16 years' experience, said he thought we were about to run off the runway.

The aircraft made one more flight after my trip, to Ostend, before setting off on its final journey. The Cessna crashed just a mile away from Shobdon airfield in Hereford and Worcester. Of the two passengers with them, one man was killed and a 20-year-old man is critically ill in hospital. Seconds before the crash, witnesses reported that the aircraft was travelling slowly and that the engines were sputtering. The weather had deteriorated and Mr Wall is believed to have flown into a rain shower.

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Barrister's ex-wife drove into cottage

Victims say community service sentence is a joke, reports Tim Jones

THE former wife of a barrister who drove off after crashing her Land Rover through the wall of a cottage, pinning the owner underneath, was sentenced yesterday to 150 hours community service and told to seek help by the judge.

The victim's husband, Peter Trewren, said after the sentence that Heather Edyeane-Driscoll had been treated leniently because of her former husband's position. He described the punishment as "a joke".

James Puzey, for the prosecution, told Coventry Crown Court that on the night in question, last December, Edyeane-Driscoll, 49, had been followed by a taxi driver who saw her weaving across the road between Rugby and Dunchurch in Warwickshire. She had demolished a bollard and crashed into the wall of a cottage. With the airbag of the Land Rover partly inflated, she had reversed in a semi-circle and smashed through the wall of the adjoining cottage, causing £15,000 damage.

Jennifer Trewren, who had been looking out of the window,

dow, was knocked to the floor. When she came to, she realised she was covered in rubble and trapped beneath the rear wheels of the vehicle, which was fit into her lounge. She spent two nights hospital with a fractured heel bone, deep cuts and bruising.

Mr Puzey said Edyeane-Driscoll drove out of the lounge and weaved across roads marked with double white lines as she made her way to her home in the village of Kites Hardwick. Her vehicle, which was extensively damaged, was driven without lights except for the hazard warning lights.

When police called at her home, she was abusive and refused to take a breath test. She told officers: "Can't do that. I'm in my own house." Later, the court was told, after she had been taken to Rugby police station, she was abusive and insulting to officers.

Edyeane-Driscoll pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and failing to stop after an accident. She was sentenced to 150 hours and 120 hours community service, to run concurrently. She was also



Jennifer Trewren: spent two nights in hospital

banned from driving for three years and ordered to pay £500 costs. She pleaded not guilty to failing to provide a specimen and that charge will be dealt with later. The court was told that she had two previous convictions, for drink-driving and for speeding.

James Burbidge, for Edyeane-Driscoll, said: "The court

will recognise this is a serious case, as Mrs Driscoll does, but it is also a sad case. This defendant is desperately sorry and saddened at the injury and damage she caused to the Trewren family."

He went on: "The night before had not been a happy night. Plans made had gone awry and there was clearly conflict in the family home. This lady has had a traumatic recent life in family terms. She frankly had a blind panic." Judge Brian Farmer, QC, told Edyeane-Driscoll: "Had you been over the prescribed limit or had Jennifer Trewren tragically been killed, then no power in the land could have saved you from serving an immediate custodial sentence. Mercifully for you, nobody was killed, but I have to remind you that in this case that was more a case of good fortune than anything else. I cannot pretend it wasn't a case of dangerous driving. You made it worse by then reversing and creating damage to Mrs Trewren's home and her.

"I am satisfied you were under considerable strain and I am satisfied that strain led you to panic and behave in a way that would normally be abhorrent to you. You need help and I urge you to go and get it."

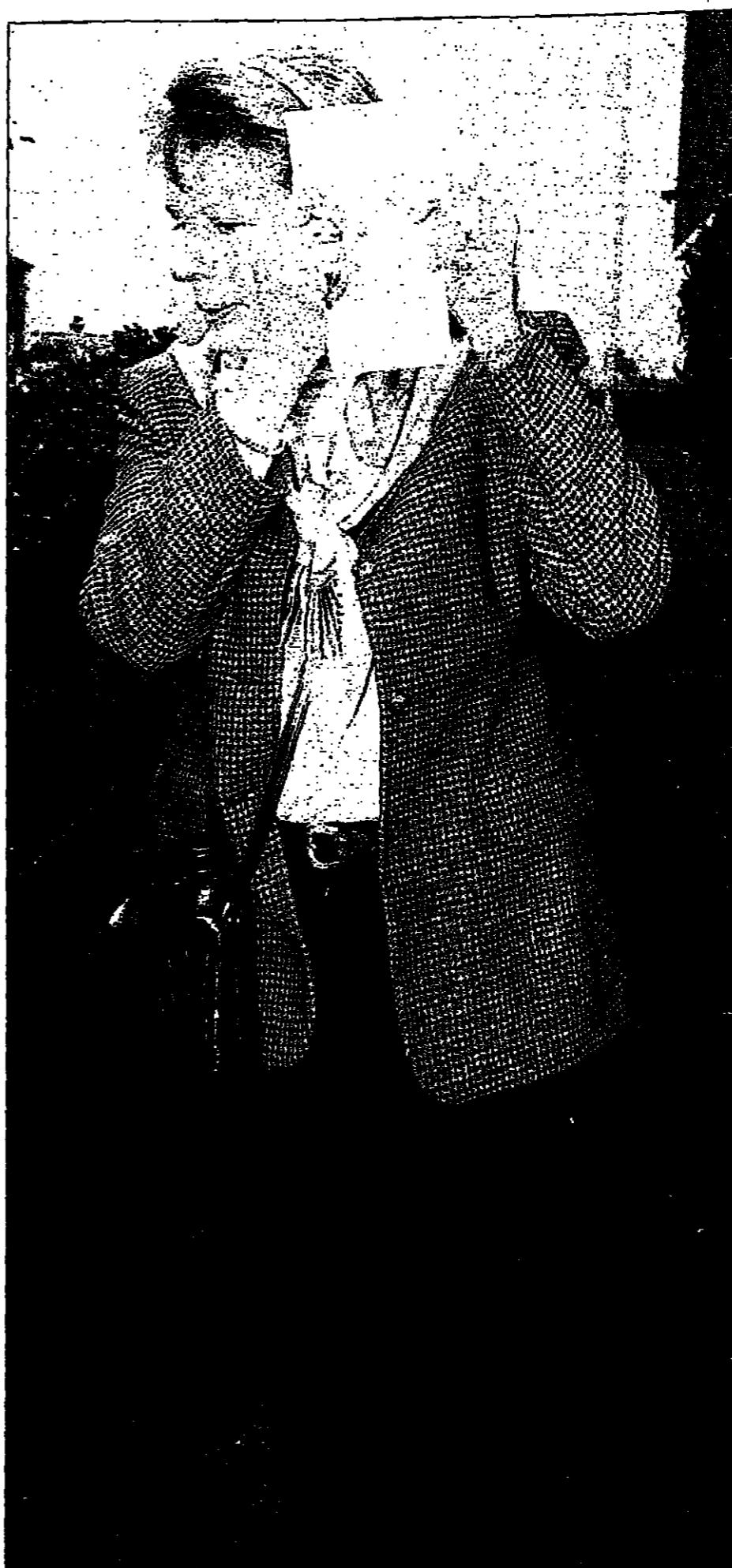
There was an angry confrontation as Edyeane-Driscoll was led away to a consulting room, with Mr and Mrs Trewren accusing her of showing no remorse. Mrs Trewren, 52, said: "I still need to have an operation on my foot but she has shown no remorse at all. She left a trail of destruction but she left court smiling. She shouldn't be allowed to drive again."

Last night Edyeane-Driscoll, who divorced her husband, Michael, a QC, in 1986, said: "I really do hope my life can now get back to normal. I'm a proper driver, I don't hit houses for a hobby. I've got better things to do than go waltzing into people's front rooms."

The mother of four said the crash was the aftermath of stress brought about by her former husband telling her that he would not be spending Christmas with the family.



Peter Trewren and the hole in his cottage caused by the reversing Land Rover



Heather Edyeane-Driscoll still faces a charge of failing to provide a specimen

Pub chain bans sale of alcopops

By Tim Jones

A PUB chain yesterday banned the sale of alcopops from its bars. J.D. Wetherspoon, which sells up to 15,000 bottles of alcopops a week at its 194 pubs, made the decision after a month-long trial at one of its London sites.

Tim Martin, chairman of the chain, said: "Alcopops have had a lot of bad publicity and many people are concerned that they are attractive to people too young to drink legally."

"We are not telling other people to ban alcopops. We just do not want to be associated with the controversy."

Last month the Government announced a package of measures to discourage under-age drinking and sales of alcopops, including making it illegal for adults to buy alcohol on behalf of under-18s and plans to use teenagers to disclose retailers who sell to children.

Two supermarket chains, the Co-op and Iceland, have banned the fruit-flavoured drinks. Sainsbury said that from today it would no longer

promote alcopops. The drinks account for about 5 per cent of national alcohol sales.

J.D. Wetherspoon said that its experimental ban had shown no impact on takings. Unlike most pub chains, which pursue the teenage market, Wetherspoon pubs do not have music and there are no-smoking areas.

Alcohol Concern welcomed the decision and urged other pub chains to ban alcopops. "We need a code of practice that is effective and does not leave the onus on licensees to take unilateral decisions," a spokesman said.

The Portman Group, the drinks industry watchdog, said that the Wetherspoon move was unlikely to have a great impact on under-age drinking. "More important than the issue of which drinks are stocked in a pub is the responsibility licensees have in not selling alcohol to under-18s," a spokesman said. "Just banning alcopops will not necessarily prevent young people obtaining alcohol from pubs."

British skipper stranded as stowaway vanishes

By RORY CARROLL

A BRITISH sea captain is stranded aboard his ship in Ghana amid accusations that a stowaway was killed and thrown overboard. The *Barco-Trader* is not being allowed to leave the port of Tema until Captain James Edge, 56, and two crew members are handed over to the authorities.

The captain's wife, May, of Weymouth, Dorset, said that the move was an attempt by corrupt officials to extort money from the merchant ship's German owners, and accused the Foreign Office of abandoning her husband for nearly three weeks and not doing enough to seek his release.

The ship follows a trade route between West Africa and Europe. A male Ghanaian stowaway was discovered on a journey from Ghana to Antwerp.

The man was said to have been put back ashore after the ship off-loaded its cargo and returned to the port of Dakar on June 27. But 11 days later, when the *Barco-Trader* was further along the coast at

Tema, local immigration officials detained the ship and prevented it from leaving harbour. They refused to accept that the man was put ashore, and maintained that he must have been killed and thrown overboard.

Mrs Edge said: "The ship is now floating at anchor and they will not let it leave with my husband on board. They are running out of food, and things are getting very hard for him."

The owners are sending a new skipper out there to take over the ship, and my husband will be brought ashore and held there along with his first officer and bosun.

The police in Ghana know

full well that nothing is amiss but the immigration people are a law unto themselves. The Foreign Office have done absolutely nothing to sort the situation out, and once the owners have their ship back my husband will just be forgotten."

The Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that Captain Edge and his vessel had been detained, and said that diplomats had been trying to help. A statement said: "We can confirm the detention at Tema of Captain John Edge and his vessel the *Barco-Trader*. Consular staff in London have spoken to Mrs Edge, and the British High Commission in Accra has been in touch with Captain Edge."

"We have also been in contact with the Ghanaian authorities, according to whom Captain Edge is being questioned regarding the death of a Ghanaian national alleged to have stowed away on board the *Barco-Trader*.

"The *Barco-Trader* is Cyprus registered and German-owned, and we will render Captain and Mrs Edge every possible assistance."

Golden end for buried treasure

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE final hoard of relics to be acquired for the nation under the medieval law of treasure trove was unveiled at the British Museum yesterday.

The collection of 22 Roman gold coins from West Sussex was "seized for the Crown" by the Chichester Coroner last month.

The coins, now destined for Worthing Museum, span the reigns of seven emperors with the most recent minted in AD 461, making them the latest Roman hoard ever found in Britain.

Until now, the motive behind the burial of such a hoard had to be puzzled out by a coroner's jury: if there was evidence that gold or silver was hidden for later recovery, it was declared treasure trove and seized to the Crown—in effect, passing into a national or local museum collection. If, on the other hand, it was held to have been lost or buried for eternity in a grave, it belonged to the finder, who could sell it.

Often the evidence was ambiguous: ancient minds are difficult to read.

This confusion is now ending with the Treasure Act, which was passed last year. It will come into force on September 24, and yesterday Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, launched its accompanying code of practice.

"Treasure" will now include all objects with more than 10 per cent gold or silver, previously the amount of precious metal was not specified and could be minimal—and more than 300 years old; whatever their circumstances of burial or discovery.

It will also embrace objects made of other materials, such as pottery, found with precious metals. The archaeological value of such complete finds is far higher than that of isolated pieces lacking context.

Finders will still have to report their discoveries to the coroner, or risk a £5,000 fine or three months' jail. Rewards will continue to be paid, after valuation by an official committee, on finds that museums want to acquire. Landowners and occupiers will for the first time be eligible for rewards, as well as finders.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Road tax cheats face the clamp

The Government has recruited wheelclamps for a campaign against road-tax evaders. From August 13 vehicles without tax discs will be clamped and owners will have to pay £10 and show a valid disc to remove the clamp. Vehicles will be impounded if not claimed in 24 hours and the release fee will rise. If vehicles are unclaimed after five weeks, they will be crushed or sold at auction. In a London pilot scheme, nearly 60 per cent of vehicles clamped were crushed or auctioned.

Lost garden

A couple who spent £10,000 creating a garden have been told to turn it back into farmland by their council. Elaine and Trevor Pearce, of Norton, near Worcester, planted 53 trees, 100 shrubs and turf worth £2,000 without planning consent.

Shot baby case

A 14-year-old boy was accused of shooting a baby girl in the head with an airgun at Hetton-le-Hole, Tyne and Wear. Magistrates remanded him into local authority care until August 12. The baby, aged 14 weeks, is seriously ill in hospital.

Jaws of defeat

A shark which had been taken to an aquarium in Dingle, Co Kerry, by fishermen was taken offshore in a trawler and thrown overboard after attempting to bite staff. "It was a vicious thug of a thing, so we had to let it go," an official said.

Bathed in art

The Arts Council is awarding £4,176 to a Bristol arts group that is to stage an exhibition featuring a scum bin on a bath. The show looks at living in a block of flats. The curator said: "It is an ironic comment on how art becomes part of one's identity."

Jogger demands

Alan Naylor, 26, and Wynhama Thomas, 19, of Cresswell, South Wales, and a youth, 17, were remanded in custody by Bridgwater magistrates charged with murdering a jogger who was stabbed as he chased burglars from his home last week.

Farm pest alert

Farmers in Essex were warned to check their fields for Colorado beetles after inspectors at Harwich found an infested load of melons and potatoes in a lorry from Greece. The pest, unknown in Britain for 20 years, can ruin crops.

Post marked

The oldest, most northerly and most unusual post offices in the country feature on a new set of stamps to be issued next week. The four stamps, on sale from August 12, mark the centenary of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters.

CORRECTION

Tilda Swinton, conceived and performed *The Merchant of Venice* at the Serpentine Gallery in 1995 with an installation created in collaboration with Cornelia Parker.

Cyprus assault case puts Army in dock again

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE disciplinary record of the British Army in Cyprus will come under the spotlight again today when four British soldiers appear before a court in Larnaca to answer charges of assaulting two British tourists in the resort of Ayia Napa.

Two holidaymakers from south-east London, Shane Bell, 27, of Elstham, and Barry Ford, 23, of Lee, and their girlfriends, were among a group of six people allegedly set upon by about eight off-duty soldiers as they were leaving a disco in the early hours of Saturday. Mr Bell has a broken jaw and Mr Ford has a fractured hand. Mr Ford said that his girlfriend, Claire Harbour, 22, had had to have her wrist X-rayed and that it was badly bruised.

Cyprus police named the four soldiers, all of junior ranks, as Roger Bell, 26, Tim Carter, 27, Steven Winsten, 26, and Steven Girvan, 20. If they are found guilty, all 600

OFFICER FACES CARPETING OVER CLASS ATTACK

AN ARMY major who attacked the Armed Forces' "antiquated" class system is to be interviewed by a senior officer today.

Major Eric Joyce, of the Army Training and Recruitment Agency, wrote a highly critical article for the left-wing Fabian Society warning that the Armed Forces could not continue to be run only by public school-educated officers and should root out prejudice in

court in Larnaca. As a result, the regiment's Commandant-General, Major-General David Pennefather, last month indefinitely banned the entire 6,000-strong Royal Marine Corps from training in Cyprus. "Cases of insubordination have been extremely few and far between and

class, gender and race. He wrote: "The role played by social class and the centrality of outmoded Victorian values are now acting as powerful inhibitors in our efforts to deal effectively with our dire manpower crisis."

But John Spellar, the junior Defence Minister, said the picture painted by Major Joyce was "not a picture that I recognise". He said the key issue was under-recruitment.

this latest incident of an alleged assault is very regrettable," an army spokesman, Mervyn Wynne Jones, said. "Each of the four has been charged by Cypol [the Cyprus police force] with assault occasioning grievous bodily harm," he said. "The four soldiers are being held

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Designer wins legal aid for fashion fight



The Givenchy dress modelled by Eva Herzigova

Mark Henderson on the Givenchy dress that sparked a damages claim

A FORMER fashion student who claims his design for an "off the breast" dress was copied by Alexander McQueen, the designer-in-chief for the Parisian couture house Givenchy, has been granted legal aid to pursue a damages claim.

Trevor Merrell, 35, from Deptford, south London, is to sue McQueen and Givenchy for breach of copyright over a dress modelled by Eva Herzigova in Paris in January, which he says was based on one that he had designed for a fashion show on the Isle of Wight two years ago. McQueen denies the accusation.

McQueen's white, ankle-length dress, which was cut low over the model's right breast, caused a stir when it was shown as part of his first Givenchy collection, which had a Greek mythological theme.

Merrell's dress, which entered at the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup collection in June 1995, was made from a different material but was also designed to show the model's right breast. She had to wear a flesh-coloured T-shirt underneath as the show's organisers considered the original too revealing.

Trine Verlade, a spokeswoman for McQueen, said that he had never met Merrell nor seen any of his designs. "It is absurd to say that, because both dresses are white and have one shoulder, that one is based on another," she said



Trevor Merrell, left, claims that his design was copied by Givenchy's recruit, Alexander McQueen

yesterday. "It wasn't the first design like that and it won't be the last. Are people going to start suing anyone who makes a strapless black dress because it's been done before?"

Ms Verlade said that McQueen, the 27-year-old son of a taxi driver from east London, would fight the case and was confident of success.

"This chap is doing this for the public, not because he has a case," she said. "Alexander McQueen is a big name and it is a good way for him to make his name known."

Merrell's dress was lost after the show and he was compensated by the London

College of Fashion, where he was a student. He said that he had always been suspicious about what had happened to it and was astonished when he saw new paper photographs of the McQueen outfit.

"I couldn't believe it," he said. "The dress looked just like mine."

"I do not believe the similarities are coincidental," he said. "It would be truly remarkable. Eva Herzigova was even wearing an ancient Greek-style headdress, as was my model."

Merrell said that his solicitors had told him he had a better than even chance of winning his case and that he

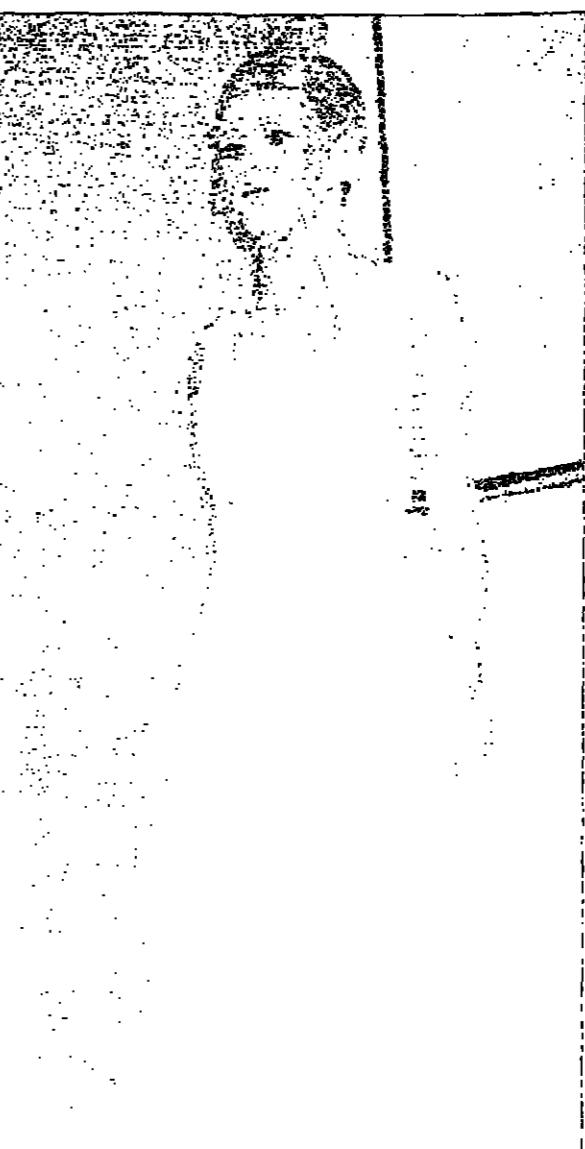
was delighted his case had been taken on. "I believe there has been an injustice," he said. "I am not someone's dress-up outfit. I have a brand now — the company exists — and the money spent for them will be repaid."

Merrell has been awarded legal aid to bring an action for breach of copyright against McQueen and Givenchy. He is "not" a barrister on Friday to discuss whether to proceed. He must prove that his copyright was infringed in Britain. His solicitor, Christine Christie of Briffa and Co, North London, said there were legal points that needed to be sorted out first.

Breaches of copyright claims in the fashion industry have not been ruled legitimate until now. Yves Saint Laurent won £5.5m in damages from Ralph Lauren Jr, and for "unauthorised and dishonest representations," although Laurent later won a defamation "counterclaim" against Pierre Bergé of Yves Saint Laurent.

A year earlier, the young designer Amy and Alison reached an out-of-court settlement with the Italian fashion house Giorgio Armani after Armani sold T-shirts with a distorted version.

Eve Bruce was less lucky. She was forced to put her company, independent boutiques, out of liquidation last year after running up debts of £500,000 while fighting a case against Marks & Spencer over swimsuits.



The student's creation, worn with a T-shirt

Riders would rather not be saddled with unbridled passion

BY ROBIN YOUNG



RIDERS are not all that Jilly Cooper cracked them up to be. Far from insistently rolling each other in the hay, two out of three prefer the company of their horses to that of their partners.

A survey of 1,000 riders shows other signs that the horse is the real focus of their affections: they sneak off work for secret riding sessions, they confide their problems to their horse and they try to keep the costs secret from their partners.

In Cooper's steamy blockbuster, *Riders*, memorably jackeded with the rear view of a pair of taut jodhpurs, horse-owners and stable hands were portrayed as fit for stud in their own right. In reality, the survey by *Gallops!* magazine has found that horses are way ahead in commanding obsessive attention.

Not only do 63 per cent of riders say they prefer the horse's company but, even if it came to a showdown where they had to give up their partner or their horse, a quarter would choose the horse and 47 per cent said they could not decide.

Only 19 per cent said they preferred holidays just with their partners, leaving the horse at home. Nine-tenths of women riders said they would rather have a new horse than a baby, on the ground that you can ride a baby or leave it in a field.

Half the riders admitted to having absented themselves

from work for secret riding sessions, and some admitted that they confided their problems to their horse rather than their partner, as they got a more sympathetic hearing. Unsurprisingly, 53 per cent of the horse-owners' partners were jealous of their equine rivals. Only one third shared their loved one's passion for horses.

Although half the horse-owners thought they looked sexy in their riding gear, and found other people in jodhpurs a turn-on, three-quarters did not think they were more likely to have an affair than those with other hobbies.

Maureen Collins, of *Gallops!*, said: "Riding a horse is like a drug — one gallop and you're hooked for life. People are passionate about it."

Cooper said: "Nothing surprises me, particularly with

horse people. You should obviously love animals almost as much as anything else, but the findings are really a sad indictment on modern relationships. It suggests people are not communicating with each other and are instead escaping with their horses."

While horses may indeed represent some relief from domestic trouble and strife, they are themselves expensive and troublesome creatures. More than half the riders interviewed had been injured by their four-legged friends, with almost half the catalogues of resulting physical damage including broken bones.

The average purchase price for a horse was £1,010, with owners in London and the South East spending the most, on average £2,023, compared with those in Ireland who had to pay £1,227.

Riders spent a further £95.34 a month to stable their horses, plus an average of £31.71 annually on vets' bills and £213.38 on a year's insurance — a total additional annual bill for essential running costs of £1,482.17.

Half the owners admitted deceiving their jealous partners about how much their horses really cost, and more than a third admitted being driven into debt by their love of horses.

Horses are no less time-consuming than human partners. The average horse-owner spends 10.5 hours a week grooming the animal and 8.5 hours in the saddle.

Bird's-eye view reveals allure of opposite sex

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



The starling: hidden powers of attraction

THE sex appeal of the male starling has much more to it than meets the human eye, a study of the birds' mating behaviour has shown.

Starlings can see in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum, outside the range of human vision, so ornithologists have been unaware of the special allure that females find in the dark, iridescent plumage of the males.

A team at Bristol and Regensburg universities proved the existence of the starling's ultraviolet sight by watching females as they were introduced to males. The females' interest can be assessed by the length of time they stared at the males, or the number of times they hopped up and down while looking at them.

Using transparent films to block out ultraviolet wavelengths, the team showed that females made different

choices when denied the use of ultraviolet frequencies. They were still able to choose but appeared to do so on some different basis, perhaps judging the way a male displayed his feathers.

Reporting in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Andrew Bennett and colleagues say that the strongest signals in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum come from the feathers around the male's throat. As long as this ultraviolet signal



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Queen who meddled in history

The second in our series on the Victorian Age focuses on the leading role of the monarch. Alan Hamilton reports

VICTORIA may have been our longest reigning monarch who gave her name to an age, and about whom we know more than almost any other. But was she a good monarch?

Today's unwritten rule states that the sovereign should keep as judiciously out of the political arena, but you could never accuse Victoria of impartiality. She came to the throne as a young woman of 18 and an entirely unknown quantity. She served her political apprenticeship under the avuncular Melbourne, her first Prime Minister, and became an unashamed Whig partisan.

Then along came Prince Albert with strong, albeit Germanic, views on politics and a vast admiration for Peel. The Queen became a Tory. In later years she hated Gladstone because he lectured her as though she were a public meeting, and loved Disraeli because he laid on the flattery with a trowel. Victoria was nothing if not susceptible to male charm throughout her life.

She was a meddler, and her view of her position within the British constitution would cut little ice today. She expected to have a say in the appointment of ministers, and she always thought her husband had a much better understanding of foreign policy than her Government did.

However, she did reform and stabilise the monarchy after it had suffered under the madness of George III, the profligacy of George IV and the short reign of the bluff but dull William IV. She invented the concept of a royal family as

a model of domestic life, and was mortified to discover that her teenage son, Bertie, the future Edward VII, relieved the boredom of his artillery course in Dublin by nightly taking an actress between the sheets. The shock may have contributed to Albert's early death from typhoid.

She was a romantic, and much present-day royal ceremony, like Trooping the Colour, which tourists imagine to spring from the days of the Conqueror, are in fact Victoria's inventions. That same romanticism coloured her view of empire, and persuaded

feelings; but did not believe in women's rights and could not countenance the existence of lesbianism. But she was happy to use her position as a woman to get her way.

Biographers have never fully answered the question of whether Victoria was intelligent. Some have derided her as "indolent" and "stupid". V.S. Pritchett dismissed her as a mixture of national landlady and actress. Elizabeth Longford is kinder: "She lacked spontaneous intellectual curiosity. Without that gift, neither her immense industry nor taste for intelligent discussion could greatly extend her mental range. Within these limits her mind was alert and her understanding well above the average."

Her Continental relatives found her sombre and terrifying, but she could be amused provided the jokes were simple. Lord Granville observed that wit was wasted on Victoria's family, as nothing made them laugh like hearing one had trapped one's finger in the door.

Perhaps her greatest achievement was to be the first truly European monarch, travelling widely and being related to most of the Continent's other crowned heads. A pity she did not visit Ireland more than twice; a higher profile there might have saved us from the legacy that still troubles us.

It is an irony that Queen Victoria died at Osborne House in the arms of her grandson, Kaiser Wilhelm II. The Victorian Age reached its final, and dramatic end 13 years later, in August 1914.

She enjoyed strong sexual

relationships — a Scotsman naturally — recommended the pure dry air of Deeside. And aye, he just happened to be a man that might be selling a wee castle. They went to view, and were immediately captivated.

Victoria relished the thought of a remote retreat, living among ordinary people far from the cares and trappings of state. The steep wooded hillsides and bright rushing water reminded Albert of his native Thuringia in eastern Germany.

After three years of negotiations, Albert bought the 17,000-acre Balmoral estate and its pretty little castle for 30,000 guineas. With the help of the Aberdeen city architect, William Smith, the Prince set about designing a new and rather grander *séjour*, opened in 1855 and still the present Queen's regular summer retreat.

Victoria's days with Albert on Deeside were the happiest of her life. They roamed the countryside on what she called her great expeditions, often travelling dozens of miles a day by pony or

carriage, spending nights in village inns, passing the time of day with locals. And always at her pony's head, guiding the party sure-footedly along remote mountain tracks, was her "particular gillie", John Brown.

After Albert's death, Victoria was persuaded to publish the diary she had so

assiduously kept of their Highland idyll together. The first volume of her *Leaves From Our Journal Of Our Life In The Highlands* appeared in 1867, and was an instant bestseller. In the same year the railway reached Ballater, less than ten miles from Balmoral. The two events gave birth to the Scot-

tish tourism industry, which has never looked back, but the hordes of the curious who thronged to Deeside to glimpse their widowed and withdrawn sovereign did nothing for the solitude she valued.

Victoria's relationship with John Brown was a matter for intense speculation at the

time, and remains so. Undoubtedly they were devoted to each other, and she found him an immense emotional support in her widowhood. She built him a house in the castle grounds, and erected a statue to him after his death in 1883 — a death at which she was almost as grief-stricken as at that of her husband. Her

second volume of Highland diaries was dedicated to "my loyal Highlanders, and especially to the memory of my devoted personal attendant and faithful friend, John Brown". He is buried in the old churchyard at Crathie, beneath a headstone inscribed by his Queen.

Balmoral Castle again. drive a short way down the South Deeside road, and turn up to the Royal Lochnagar Distillery, visited by Victoria and Albert in 1848. Back in Ballater, take the long dead-end road up Glen Muick to the car park at Loch Muick. Nearby is Altnaguthusach, the little bothy where the royal couple spent nights alone — well, with only a couple of servants — after walking in the hills. At the remoter western end of the loch is the Glassall Shiel, a lodge built by Victoria after her husband's death, where she could retreat to contemplate her loss.

At the head of Deeside, a dead-end road from Braemar leads to the Linn of Dee, the starting point for many of Victoria's long expeditions into the wild Cairngorms.

Royal Lochnagar Distillery: open Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4. Adults £2, children free. Crathie Kirk: open Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30, Sun 2-5. Services Sunday 11.30.



A portrait of youthful-looking Queen Victoria, painted in 1859, when she was 40, by Franz X. Winterhalter

A seaside home fit for raising royalty

BY ALAN HAMILTON

AS A royal residence, Buckingham Palace was essentially a profligate indulgence of George IV, who commissioned John Nash to create the 18 staterooms that now attract 400,000 tourists a year. Victoria, however, quickly realised it was no place to bring up children: she and Albert created an alternative family home at Osborne on the Isle of Wight.

Osborne, an Italianate villa designed by Prince Albert, is now an English Heritage property filled with Victoria's family memorabilia. Everywhere at Osborne are the entwined initials V and A. The outstanding artefact is her bathing machine, employed for years after her death as a chicken shed, but now restored. The royal bathing machine, a large wheeled cart, ran on stone rails into the water. It contains a changing room and a plumbed lavatory with its own water tank.

Victoria recorded her first experience of sea bathing in 1847: "Drove down to the beach with my maids and went into the bathing machine, where I undressed and bathed in the sea, a very nice bathing woman attending me. I thought it delightful till I put my head under the water, when I thought I should be stifled."

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TOMORROW



The golden age of railways and its enduring monuments

How a Highland trail led to love at first sight

Balmoral retreat was chosen for its peace — and for the rare chance of anonymity, Alan Hamilton writes



Balmoral Castle: when Victoria saw the estate, she wrote in her diary: "All seemed to breathe freedom"

carriage, spending nights in village inns, passing the time of day with locals. And always at her pony's head, guiding the party sure-footedly along remote mountain tracks, was her "particular gillie", John Brown.

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Deeside road, directly opposite the car park, visit Crathie Kirk, opened by Victoria in 1895; the Queen held a giant bazaar to raise funds for the church.

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gate is the headstone of John Brown, the "faithful friend" of Victoria, who died in 1883.

At the head of Deeside, a dead-end road from Braemar leads

Netanyahu ultimatum to Arafat on terror

Hezbollah vows revenge after attacks by Israel kill five in south Lebanon

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL is winning the propaganda war being waged on American television in the wake of the Jerusalem bombings.

Realizing that Washington's continued support is essential to his cause, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has reserved some of his harshest words about Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, for the satellite links between his offices and the Washington offices of the big American networks.

"It's not only the lives of innocent women and children that are at stake," Mr Netanyahu told CBS. "I believe the whole peace is at stake. Arafat must make a choice and he must make it now."

Mr Netanyahu demanded that Mr Arafat launch an "all-out sweep to round up the terrorists" responsible for the attacks that killed 15 people, including the two bombers, and injured 150 others in Jerusalem's central market. Mr Netanyahu said his Government had indications that there could be more attempts at terrorism. "Unfortunately, we are prepared for the worst," he said.

As he spoke, Hezbollah, the militant Islamic group, vowed to launch revenge attacks after bombs planted by Israeli commandos killed five of their

guerrilla fighters in southern Lebanon. The roadside bomb blast followed two hours of fierce fighting between the Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas at Kfar in Nabatiyeh.

In Beirut, a Hezbollah statement confirmed the deaths and injuries to six civilians.

The Israelis reported no casualties.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli Defence Force said in a statement that "a number of terrorists" were hit, while all of the Israeli troops returned safely.

Mr Netanyahu's media skills have gone swiftly into overdrive since the Jerusalem killings, blunting some of the early criticism that his insistence on building Jewish settlements in Arab east Jerusalem could have provoked the continued violence by Hamas militants.

Even if that were the case, Mr Netanyahu has managed to portray the Arafat regime as dragging its feet in rounding up terrorists. Indeed, he said that another choice for Mr Arafat was to decide if he wanted to be the head of a rogue nation that sponsored terrorism, like Libya, or one like Egypt that determinedly hunted down Muslim militants in its midst.

Israel has found support from US officials in its attempts to win over American hearts and minds. Samuel

Berger, the National Security Adviser to President Clinton, acknowledged that Mr Arafat's co-operation on security questions had been uneven. Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House, unleashed a forceful attack on Mr Arafat and said that Israel had every right to send punitive missions into Gaza and the West Bank in pursuit of the bombers.

The Palestinians have been outflanked, but Mr Arafat's chief negotiator, Saeb Erekat, did tell CNN that Mr Netanyahu was blaming the Palestinian Authority without "a shred of evidence" about who was responsible for last week's attack. Mr Arafat, he said, had offered to join with Israel to find out who was responsible for the terrorist activity.

But Mr Netanyahu said yesterday that even if it were found that the terrorists came from overseas, the Palestinian Authority could not escape responsibility for last week's suicide bombing.

The Prime Minister admitted that Israel still did not know the identities or even the origins of the attackers in Jerusalem's open-air Mahane Yehuda market. But he insisted, it was likely that the terrorists had been aided by residents in the Palestinian self-rule areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It is reasonable to suppose, as in the past, that wherever they came from, they had to have been assisted by an organisation, an infrastructure, of local people," Mr Netanyahu said.

"It is very difficult to suppose that this action was done without the help of local people, and we know of many instances that it is this infrastructure that makes all the difference."

Mr Netanyahu said: "The infrastructure is here, it is placed here, and operates from areas under the Palestinian Authority. The Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organisations are all established in the areas of the



A Palestinian tries to talk his way through an Israeli roadblock south of Ramallah yesterday as Israel kept its pressure on Yassir Arafat

authority, and the authority has not acted against this infrastructure."

The Prime Minister was speaking after a meeting with Phil Gramm, the American Republican senator. Mr Gramm told reporters that the American Congress would halt aid worth hundreds of millions of dollars unless Palestinians stepped up efforts to prevent attacks against Israelis.

He said that Israel's "strong supporters" in Congress believed Palestinians were not meeting commitments to clamp down on militant opponents of the peace accords.

After the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accords in 1993, America pledged to transfer a total of \$500 million to the Palestinian Authority over a period of five years. But the payments are made annually, and Mr Gramm indicated that they might now come to an abrupt halt: "Authorisation for Palestinian aid, as you know, expires on August 12. It will not be renewed by the United States Congress, in my opinion, unless the Palestinians begin living up to the commitments they've made."

the Israeli President to meet him, a move that has surprised observers since Mr Weizman's role is meant to be mainly ceremonial, similar to that of a governor-general in former British colonies. The invitation may reflect a growing desire by America to listen

Moratinos, the European Union envoy to the Middle East, who brought with him a confidential message from Mr Arafat. Senior Moratinos publicly criticised Israeli sanctions against the Palestinians in the wake of the suicide bombings, including the closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The envoy said that the Israeli security measures were "bringing insecurity".

Senior Moratinos said Mr

Netanyahu had assured him

that he was willing to ease the measures once Mr Arafat had taken stronger action to eradicate the sources of violence and to prevent further attacks on Israelis.

The envoy said that the European Union had proposed the creation of a new permanent Israeli-Palestinian security committee in an attempt to salvage the stalled

region.



Netanyahu at a meeting in his office yesterday

Identical twins in HIV tests

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

SIX sets of identical twins are to take part in a trial using gene therapy which Australian scientists yesterday hailed as a possible breakthrough in the search for a treatment for the Aids virus, HIV.

Researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation plan to test their "gene shears" technology on each set of twins, one of whom has the HIV virus and one of whom has not, in order to find out if it can block the spread of HIV in patients who are already infected. It is the first time that the technology has been applied to the search for an Aids-related treatment.

Peter McGrath, the federal Science Minister, said: "Initial test-tube experiments suggest gene shears could provide a very effective weapon in preventing HIV taking hold in the body. I do not need to underscore what a breakthrough that would be."

"Gene shear therapy" is based on the discovery that enzymes called ribozymes can act like a pair of scissors to chop up pieces of unwanted genetic material in the body.

Dr Geoff Symonds, a partner in the venture, said: "Ribozymes can act to both decrease the amount of HIV virus that is replicating and to increase cell survival."

London starts talks on volcano island's future

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

BERTRAND OSBORNE, the Chief Minister of the stricken island of Montserrat, yesterday began talks in London on whether the tiny Caribbean island is still viable after two years of devastating volcanic eruptions.

The talks started after eruptions early yesterday morning and on Sunday night sent an avalanche of hot gas, rock and ash pouring down the slopes of the Soufrière Hills volcano into the streets of Plymouth, the abandoned capital.

Mr Osborne, leading a delegation of six ministers and prominent businessmen, will hold talks at the Foreign Office and the Department for International Development as well as the Red Cross, emergency relief officials and some of the hundreds of islanders who have fled to Britain. Tomorrow, the delegation will be received at Buckingham Palace by the Queen.

Britain, which has announced emergency aid and relief amounting to £1 million, does not need to underscore what a breakthrough that would be.

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UN approves Iraqi food plan

New York: Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday approved an Iraqi plan for distributing food and medicine bought with oil revenues. Iraq has sold no oil on the world market since late May, saying that it would await Mr Annan's approval.

Baghdad's delay in imple-

menting the oil-for-food relaxation of post-Gulf War sanctions was apparently intended to put pressure on the Security Council to accelerate the procedure for approving shipments of humanitarian goods.

Fred Eckhardt, a UN spokesman, said the Iraqi Government had been informed of the approval, but he declined to

say when oil exports might resume. But a Western diplomat suggested that Iraq could resume sales by the weekend.

Iraq was barred from exporting oil under UN sanctions imposed in 1990 after Saddam Hussein sent troops into neighbouring Kuwait, which provoked the Gulf War. (AP)

ments

appears to have filled that in, leaving the town exposed. When intermittent eruptions began two years ago, much of Plymouth's infrastructure, including its docks, schools, government buildings and the Governor's residence had to be abandoned. All important public services have since been moved to the north end of the island. The small airport has also been closed, leaving Montserrat accessible only by ferry from nearby Antigua.

Nearly half of the island's 11,000 residents have already fled. Of those who remain, about 1,200 have been forced to seek refuge in overcrowded government shelters.

At the London talks, various options are to be considered, including the permanent relocation of the island's main infrastructure to Salem.

Britain is considering holding a referendum among the remaining inhabitants to find out how many people want to continue living there.

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Rescuers last night began erecting big sheets of plastic over the five-day-old heap of concrete slabs, twisted metal and dirt. Heavy equipment was used to stabilise the ground amid fears that the bad weather could render the site more dangerous. Rain and snow were originally forecast for Thursday but could come earlier, officials said.

About 500 people, including ski instructors, gathered in church to pray. Villagers linked arms and wept.

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Prayers for 'miracle'

RESCUEES yesterday raced against the weather to find eight people still buried in the rubble of a landslide at an Australian ski resort, urged on by prayers for another miracle survivor. Ten bodies have been recovered. (Our Foreign Staff writes).

One woman thought to have been buried in the landslide along with the 19 occupants of two ski lodges turned up alive and well — she had left Thredbo shortly after the disaster with her husband.

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Lawyer's wife 'was fondled by Clinton'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON



Jones: her lawyers took out subpoena

PRESIDENT CLINTON was alleged to have kissed and fondled a woman in his private hideaway off the Oval Office, according to a new twist in the Paula Jones sex harassment case that emerged yesterday.

The disputed incident involved Kathleen Willey on the day, unknown to her, her lawyer husband killed himself, while under investigation for embezzlement.

Last week Mrs Willey was issued with a subpoena by lawyers for Mrs Jones who are trying to establish a pattern of improper sexual advances by Mr Clinton. *Newsweek* magazine reported that Linda Tripp, a former assistant in the White House counsel's office, said she ran into Mrs Willey in the West Wing. Mrs Willey had just left the Oval Office after seeing Mr Clinton on November 29, 1993.

According to the magazine, Miss Tripp said Mrs Willey told her she had stepped into an adjoining small private office with Mr Clinton where he kissed and fondled her.

Miss Tripp described Mrs Willey as "dishevelled". Her face was red and her lipstick was off. She was "flustered, happy and joyful" and not in any way appalled, *Newsweek* reported. Miss Tripp, a former friend of Mrs Willey's, said she was speaking out to make it clear the alleged episode was

not a case of sexual harassment, although still damaging to the President. *Newsweek* quotes another friend, Julie Steele, as saying Mrs Willey did not seem upset about Mr Clinton's alleged advances.

According to the magazine's narrative, Mrs Willey, 51, and her husband, Edward, were well-to-do Clinton fund-raisers. A former flight attendant, she landed a volunteer job in the White House after his election. Then her husband ran into debt and was accused of embezzling \$275,000 from a client. There was a tense family discussion over how they could repay the money.

In the family crisis, Mrs Willey decided she needed a full-time paid job and the next

day drove two hours from her home in Virginia to Washington, where she secured an appointment with Mr Clinton that afternoon.

On the same day Mr Willey was so distraught over his financial troubles he shot himself in his car. According to police reports, his body was not found until the day after the alleged encounter between his wife and Mr Clinton.

In the month after her husband's death, Mrs Willey obtained paid employment in the White House that lasted for ten months. She also served, at the invitation of the White House, on US delegations to international conferences on social development and biodiversity.

Nearly a year ago, Mr Clinton appointed her to the board of the United Service Organisation, a volunteer group that provides welfare and recreation for members of the armed forces.

The President's lawyer, Robert Bennett, denied that anything improper was ever said or done by Mr Clinton in connection with Mrs Willey.

The President may have consulted her around the time of her husband's death, but it was preposterous to suggest he made a sexual advance.

Mrs Willey's lawyer, Daniel Gecker, said he will ask a judge to quash the subpoena, because she has no information relevant to the Jones case and was outraged to be dragged into it.

She "had and continues to have a good relationship" with the President, the lawyer said.

Newsweek said that Mrs Jones's lawyers wanted to use the threat of delving into Mr Clinton's alleged sex life, and the resulting publicity from it, to force a settlement favourable to their client, who seeks damages of \$700,000 (£430,000).

Mr Clinton adamantly denies Mrs Jones's claim that he exposed himself and asked her for oral sex in a hotel room six years ago.

So effective has he been in

AN "INTIMATE liaison" with a City Hall aide has led Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, to the brink of divorce, according to the forthcoming issue of *Vanity Fair*.

Mr Giuliani, who is married to Donna Hanover, a television personality, is said to have had several "late-night dinners and early-morning meetings" with Cristyne Lategano, his communications director.

The mayor, 53, and Ms Hanover, 47, who have two children, are rarely seen together. Their busy lives keep them apart: Mr Giuliani is described as a "24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year" mayor; his wife is an industrious career woman. Yesterday she did not challenge the premise of *Vanity Fair's* report, stating only that her family "is deeply important and will always remain so".

However, Ms Lategano, 32, said: "Allegations by unnamed sources are not true and there is no need to comment on malicious works of fiction. When a woman works closely with her male boss, it's called intimate. When a man does the same, it's called loyal."

Despite predictions by observers that Mr Giuliani will separate from his wife after the next mayoral elections, scheduled for November, he has denounced the *Vanity Fair* report as "scurrilous" and riddled with "cheap rumours".

The mayor has reason to be upset. He is due to kick off his campaign for re-election shortly and will not relish anything that distracts attention from his substantial achievements in City Hall.

Mr Giuliani has been widely described as the best mayor New York has had. His nonsense methods have helped to curb crime and brought New Yorkers a quality of life they once could only dream about.

So effective has he been in



Cristyne Lategano and Rudolph Giuliani, above, have attacked reports of intimate meetings, which have not been denied by the mayor's wife Donna Hanover, below

Chaos as strike hits American post giant

Washington: Americans were seeking other ways to send packages yesterday as a strike started at United Parcel Service — which handles 12 million packages a day — over part-time jobs, pensions and pay (Ian Brodie writes).

The Teamsters' Union stopped negotiating just before the midnight deadline. "Half a job is not good

enough," Ronald Carey, union president, said. President Clinton urged the parties to return to negotiations.

The issue of part-time jobs is exploited by many firms.

Nearly two thirds of the 185,000 Teamsters at UPS are part-timers: they have no benefits but, according to the union, often work double and even triple shifts.

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I expose children to such a brutal wrecking of their fondest illusions amounted to inflicting emotional distress. Mrs Matay's lawyers argued in a suit which was first filed in 1995.

Dney tried to have the case dismissed as "ridiculous". It will be heard on August 18.

GA

General Accident

THE fate of a man scheduled to die tonight by lethal injection hung in the balance yesterday after an appeals court blocked his execution, saying that it would be a "manifest injustice".

Thomas Thompson, on death row in California's San Quentin prison, was convicted of raping and murdering a 20-year-old woman 16 years ago, but has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence. His eleventh-hour reprieve followed a rare weekend session of the controversial 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The panel of 11 judges, branded a "liberal clique" by Pete Wilson, the Governor of California, reversed its own earlier decision to uphold Thompson's conviction, saying he had been incompletely represented at his trial.

Mr Wilson was urging the US Supreme Court to review the case as an emergency

court to review the case as an emergency in the hope of going ahead with the execution as planned. Meanwhile, Thompson has become the latest cause célèbre of anti-death penalty activists.

A 26-year-old boat repairman at the time of his conviction, Thompson had no previous criminal record. He was accused of stabbing Gingie Fleischli five times in the head after raping her at Laguna Beach, but has always claimed that the pair had consensual sex after a night of drinking and smoking marijuana.

A "grave question" existed over whether he had in fact raped her, the San Francisco appeals court ruled on Sunday, making the death penalty inappropriate.

Under California law, only a conviction for murder with "special circumstances", such as rape, can result in death.

The main prosecution witness at Thompson's trial were two prison informants who claimed that he had confessed to them in jail, but whose reliability Thompson's lawyers never questioned. Nor was his jury ever told that the victim's former boyfriend claimed to have seen her and Thompson having consensual sex. They were also not told that the ex-boyfriend was himself a possible suspect since he owned a fishing knife that was never recovered after the killing.

Even death penalty advocates have

sided with Thompson. "This case leaves

me with a very unsettling feeling in the pit of my stomach," said Donald Heller, a lawyer who drafted the petition that reinstated the death penalty in California in 1978. Since then only four prisoners have died in San Quentin.

Disney suit goes ahead

Los Angeles: A judge has ruled that a woman's claim for damages for distress caused to her grandchildren after seeing Mickey Mouse take off his costume can go ahead (Giles Whittell writes).

Billie Jean Matay and the children, aged five to 11, were taken to staff quarters in Disneyland, Orange County, to report a robbery. There they saw the Walt Disney character

ters remove their costumes. One looked like a headless Mickey Mouse.

To expose children to such a brutal wrecking of their fondest illusions amounted to inflicting emotional distress.

Mrs Matay's lawyers argued in a suit which was first filed in 1995.

Dney tried to have the case dismissed as "ridiculous". It will be heard on August 18.

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Gays say US police neglecting serial killings

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

TWO weeks after Gianni Versace's death, American gay rights activists have alleged that the murders of 30 homosexual men remain unsolved and five serial killers are still free because their cases lack the glamour and public interest of Versace's.

The killers have left carnage in New York, Virginia, Texas, Denver and Atlanta, but they have not been hunted with the zeal devoted to catching Andrew Cunanan, the suspected Versace murderer, because their victims were seen as expendable, one mother said.

"What is the difference between my son and Versace?" asked Donna Smith, whose son, Charles, 18, was one of 12 men killed in a homosexual neighbourhood of Norfolk, Virginia, between 1987 and 1994. "Money and notoriety, if you have money and fame, it is going to get solved." Mrs Smith accused the police of labelling victims such as her son "gays and druggies", so "nobody cared".

Authorities across the country have reacted indignantly to such claims, saying that the unsolved killing sprees that are now fueling paranoia among American homosexuals are merely part of a lamentable backlog of cases in need of more resources and inter-agency co-operation.

To suggest that the police deliberately drag their feet on homosexual killings "would be a real cheap shot", said Sergeant Glen Miller, of New Jersey, who is investigating the cases of five homosexual men murdered and dismembered in the greater New York area in the early 1990s. Four of them were last seen in homosexual bars. One was found with his body stuffed in pieces into a dustbin with his head and hands left on it.

The allegations against the police are "like saying an agency would not investigate the death of a black person as much as they would the death of a white person," Sergeant Miller said, ignoring that this was the case in the South until relatively recently.

unwilling to take at the height of the Cold War. Instead, the air force disseminated spurious explanations, allowing UFO hysteria to grow. The air force put out the word that the sightings were simply "natural atmospheric phenomena".

The U2, which flew at more than 60,000ft, and the "Blackbirds", which reached 80,000ft, bristled with powerful cameras and electronics. The U2 spotted Soviet nuclear arms in Cuba, which sparked the 1962 missile crisis and took the superpowers to the brink of nuclear war.

After the Cuba incident, the air force painted the silver planes black — and the UFO sightings largely ceased.

Arthur C Clarke, page 16

Spy plane explanation of flying saucers alienates UFO spotters

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

FLYING-SAUCER watchers have attacked as "yet another deception" a newly declassified CIA document which states that virtually all the UFOs sighted in the 1950s and 1960s were spy planes.

According to the document, *CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90*, the US Air Force knew that the sightings of flying "discs", "saucers" and other objects were glimpses of the Lockheed U2A and the SR71 "Blackbird" surveillance aircraft.

The disclosure, however, has drawn derision from "UFOologists", who regard it as a fresh cap of deception on a many-layered bundle of lies.

Richard Hall, the chairman of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research, a

non-profit scientific organisation dedicated to an "open debate" on the subject of UFOs and extra-terrestrial beings, said: "The report contains a very poor, and very inaccurate, account of history."

To say that all sightings were of spy planes is absurd. It perpetuates the stereotype that sightings have only been made of flashes of light in the sky. There are many reliable accounts of clear, structured objects, flying low and close to the ground. How do you explain these?

"We're not conspiracy theorists at all. We just want to know the facts. This document is not only dumb — because UFOs were sighted well before the air force started to put U2s into the sky — it's dangerously

deceptive. It suggests that we should now stop looking for answers, which is something we're not prepared to

Y AUGUST 5
Gays say
US policy
neglecting
serial
killings

THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 5 1997

OVERSEAS NEWS 11

European chief attacks Bonn over 'Thatchers'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE European Commission yesterday launched an unusually direct attack on German politicians in an apparent attempt to stanch the growing Euroscepticism in the country.

"There are too many 'Thatchers' in Germany," said Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner.

The outburst by the Dutch commissioner, in an interview with *Die Welt* newspaper, is the latest in a series of warnings from Brussels to Bonn.

The Commission is evidently worried on two counts: the rising resistance in Germany to being "the paymaster of Europe" and the threat by regional prime ministers to block economic and monetary union (EMU) in the Bundesrat, the upper house of the German parliament.

"The possibilities of the Chancellor [Helmut Kohl] to play a pioneering role in Europe have been thwarted by Germany's federal state governments," said Mr Van Miert. "Sometimes I ask myself whether some of these federal states are really part of the European Union. Some seem to have a leg outside the Union or to be virtually non-Union states, at least if you listen to their prime minis-

ters." The criticism was aimed chiefly at Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister, who is insisting on the strictest possible interpretation of the Maastricht criteria for EMU, and who forced Herr Kohl to plead in Amsterdam against his instincts, for the retention of unanimous voting on customs and immigration issues.

But Kofi Biedenkopf, the Saxon Prime Minister, who has had earlier confrontations with Mr Van Miert over European subsidies for Volkswagen, is also the butt of Brussels' anger.

Professor Biedenkopf insists that the Bundesrat, representing the 16 federal German states — must have the right to vet every candidate for joining the single currency. "Economically, the euro is a good idea," says Professor Biedenkopf, who belongs to Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU). "But more and more it is becoming a political currency with all the attendant risks."

The professor favours a controlled delay in the introduction of the euro: a more developed European Monetary System with fixed exchange rates, should be put into place until the Union is ready for the euro. National

central banks would retain their function during this transition period but would continue to co-ordinate policy through the European Monetary Institute.

The Bonn administration has been razzled by these suggestions, as has the Commission. As an influential member of the Bundesrat, Professor Biedenkopf, together with like-minded premiers from both the CDU and the Social Democratic Party could in effect trip up Herr Kohl.

The Government has been quick to point out that Euro-

pean leaders as a whole, not the Bundesrat, must decide who participates in the euro. But the resistance could prove much more effective than at first thought — supported by a negative report from the Bundesbank and with a possibility of an appeal to the Constitutional Court, effective barricades could be constructed against the single currency.

The Government has been quietly fueling a campaign for a budget rebate from Europe. Payments have almost doubled since unification and is now far ahead of Britain as a net contributor.

□ Tax battle: The CDU said

yesterday it had not given up hope of getting a major tax cut through parliament this year, but the main opposition leader indicated he would continue to reject the plan.

Herr Kohl interrupted his summer holiday in Austria for a special parliamentary session called by his ruling coalition to send the Government's tax Bill back to a mediation panel of both houses of parliament. The Bill had passed the lower house but was rejected last month by the opposition-dominated upper house.

Government and opposition negotiators last week failed to agree on the DM30 billion (£10 billion) tax cut seen as a test of whether Germany can adopt its welfare state traditions to harsher global competition.

Edmund Stoiber, left, who is strongly Eurosceptic, and Karel Van Miert, his critic in the Commission



JEANNE CALMENT / REUTER

'Oldest woman' dies aged 122

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JEANNE CALMENT, the world's oldest person, died in Arles in the south of France yesterday, at the fabulous age of 122 years, five months and two weeks.

Mme Calment, who saw the Eiffel Tower under construction and came into the world ten years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, died at the nursing home where she has spent the past 12 years.

Several rivals have claimed to be as old or even older than Mme Calment, but only she had a birth certificate, dated February 21, 1876, to prove it.

Blind, almost deaf and increasingly frail, Mme Calment claimed that humour and an abundance of good olive oil

were the principal reasons for her survival. Her consumption of alcohol and cigarettes, which she continued until her final decade, gave heart to millions of French men and women. Scientists said Mme Calment's age was largely due to genetic factors, pointing out that her ancestors all had histories of longevity.

Mme Calment's birthday, celebrated with chocolate cake and a lot of sweet white wine, became an annual media event in France and a source of growing national pride. October 1995 saw another burst of congratulations when she overtook the previous record of 120 years 237 days set by Japan's Shigechiyo Izumi.

She left no direct descendants, having

outlived her husband by 55 years, her only daughter by 63 years, and her grandson by 34 years.

But she remained comparatively wealthy, thanks to a deal with a local lawyer who agreed to pay her an annual sum for the rest of her life in exchange for her property. The lawyer, who died last year, ended up paying three times what the building was worth. "We all make bad deals in life," she consoled him, adding that "God seems to have forgotten about me".

Mme Calment's death leaves Christian Mortensen, a Danish-born American, as the world's oldest person. He will be 115 on August 16.

Terracotta charioteers unearthed

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE PRESSE IN BEIJING

ARCHAEOLOGISTS at the mausoleum of China's first emperor, near Xian, have unearthed a set of terracotta warriors different from the previously excavated army, which draws thousands of tourists each year.

Unlike the foot soldiers on display, statues from pit number two ride in horse-drawn chariots or kneel to shoot arrows and lead horses, the official Xinhua news agency said yesterday.

The newly excavated area, measuring 32,280 sq ft, has yielded 86 warriors and 44 horses, it said.

One of China's top tourist attractions, the terracotta army, which originally was intended to protect the Emperor Qinshihuang (259-210 BC) in the afterlife, was discovered in 1974 by peasants digging a well.

Each of its 6,000-odd men and horses has distinct facial features, expression and clothes.

Archaeologists were quoted as saying that some of the figures in the newly discovered vault would be left in fragments, just as they were discovered.

"That will impress visitors by showing them how the reliefs looked before being repaired," one of the archaeologists said.

Italian travellers rage as trains fail to run on time

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S railway network was in chaos yesterday, three days after a train derailment near Rome. Thousands of angry and exhausted passengers — many in tears — complained of exposure to searing temperatures without access to food or water during delays of up to 24 hours.

There were calls from opposition MPs for the resignation of Claudio Burando, the leaving Transport Minister, who said the "rage of Italians" was understandable. "I ask their forgiveness," he said.

The disruption was caused by the derailment on Saturday of a regular inter-city express from Reggio Calabria in the toe of Italy, to Turin, in the north. The train, carrying 600 passengers, left the tracks in the Rome suburb of Casilina, scattering its 14 carriages along the line. Remarkably, only six people were slightly injured.

The accident, as the annual summer holiday rush was beginning, severed the main north-south railway artery, which is only four tracks wide at Casilina. The problem was compounded on Sunday, when a crane removing the carriages collapsed across the railway line.

The chaos and misery resulting from the failure to clear the line has caused national outrage in a country



Mussolini: railways symbolised efficiency

nobody for 12 hours, with nothing to eat or drink". A train carrying mainly elderly and infirm pilgrims back from Lourdes, arrived at Milan station nearly 24 hours late, with passengers hanging sheets from the windows with the words "Train of Shame" scrawled on them. Italy's main railway stations took on a Third World air as people waiting for trains or meeting passengers camped out.

Sigmar Burando said the fault lay with a postwar legacy of neglect under successive Christian Democratic governments. "Italy is 50 years behind in railway technology," he said.

As the chaos eased late yesterday and some services returned to near-normal, investigators said they were still trying to ascertain the cause of Saturday's crash. State railway officials suggested the derailed express had been travelling at an excessively high speed.

But trade union leaders said the blame lay with a systematic "scaling down" of railway personnel, in which "employees responsible for safety, cleaning and maintenance are the first to go". A similar dispute is still going on over the cause of a crash in January of the Milan to Rome high-speed train, in which eight people died.

Britain joins boycott of Bosnian envoys

BY MICHAEL BINION
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN suspended all contact with the Bosnian charge d'affaires in London yesterday, implementing a threat made by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, in Sarajevo last week that the West would no longer deal with any ambassador who did not represent all Bosnia.

Germany said on Sunday that it would cease to recognise the Bosnian envoy, France and Sweden followed suit yesterday. At their May meeting in Strasbourg, Portugal, Nato foreign ministers warned Bosnia's three-man presidency that it must agree to the appointment of new ambassadors by August 1 or face a diplomatic boycott.

Mr Cook reaffirmed that blunt mes-

sage in his talks with Alija Izetbegovic, Krešimir Zubak and Momočilo Krajišnik, the Muslim, Croat and Serb leaders. Yesterday he expressed regret that he had failed to meet the deadline and announced that he would therefore suspend all contact with Muslim Pashic, the charge, and would put on hold a request for a new ambassador.

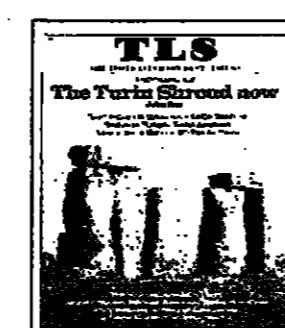
Bosnia now faces a series of deadlines imposed by the allies to force the former belligerents to observe the Dayton peace agreement. Carlos Westendorp, the international mediator, yesterday gave the leaders until midnight to agree common citizenship and passport laws or face possible international penalties.

The Bosnian leaders were meeting yesterday to discuss the allied moves, but there seemed little likelihood that any-

thing agreed by the Muslim and Croat leaders would be acceptable to the Bosnian Serbs, who have insisted on remaining as separate as possible. Mr Krajišnik failed on Friday to appear for a meeting to discuss citizenship.

"If they fail to make further substantive progress, we may feel that it is necessary ... to recommend further action be taken against them," Senior Westendorp's spokesman said.

Yesterday the West condemned the Bosnian Croat police and Croat nationalists in Jajce who beat up and expelled hundreds of Muslim refugees trying to return to their homes. International organisations said in Sarajevo that they were determined to find out who instigated the riots by drunken Croats who chased the refugees away.



TLS

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

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Who would marry a bulimic?

Men who marry anorexics and bulimics fall into three categories. Maureen Freely reports

In the public imagination she is forever young. The closer she pushes herself to death, the more child-like she becomes — not just in the eyes of her friends and relations, but in the eyes of the law. After a ruling this week by the Mental Health Act Commission, she can now be sectioned if her doctors deem it necessary, and if she does not respond to treatment, she can also be force-fed. Even if she gets her weight back, she will still be locked inside an emotional adolescence from which even the best therapy provides no easy exits.

But life goes on, even for women with anorexia and bulimia. Many grow up to get married and have children of their own. Some are able to leave their eating disorders behind them. Often their affliction returns during times of stress. And then there are the ones who become anorexic or bulimic when they're already married.

The most famous of these late developers is Diana, Princess of Wales. In the gospel according to Andrew Morton, the trigger was a passing joke the Prince of Wales made about her chubbiness, when he tried to put his arm around her waist not long before the wedding. "Shortly afterwards she made herself sick," Andrew Morton says. "It was a profound release of tension and in some hazy way gave her a sense of control over herself." In her *Panorama* interview, the Princess described the bingeing that came to precede the purging, as a fleeting comfort. "It's like having a pair of arms around you."

Her choice of simile makes it clear how an eating disorder can feed on a troubled marriage even as it provides

intermittent relief from it. So why do we know so little about this potentially fascinating subject?

It's partly because early work on eating disorders focused on the younger women who then made up most of the patient population. When older women began to present with the same problems, there was a tendency in some quarters to treat them as exceptions. That bias does not exist any more, but there is still an uncertainty about how best to treat them.

While family therapy is still considered a must for girls under 18, many experts have qualms about involving an adult patient's "second" family. Deanne Jade, principal of the National Centre for Eating Disorders, is "totally against the idea" because it runs the risk of giving "too much responsibility to the partner" and can work against the aim of anorexics and bulimics becoming "their own carers and caretakers". For recovery to happen, she says, "the power has to come from the individual".

But no married woman is an island. The partners of anorexics and bulimics can play into the problem and are also affected by it. They also have their own agendas. In a new book called *Eating Disorders and Marital Relationships*, (Routledge, £14.99) Stephan Van den Broeck, Walter Vandereycken and Jan Norre draw from existing literature to put together a disturbing composite sketch of the men who marry into anorexia and bulimia.

comes a top priority, and so intimacy suffers while unresolved problems pile up. It is hard to hide anorexia, but bulimics can be good at hiding their binges and purges (especially from men) as one woman told me. This means many husbands don't have a clue. Even if they do know,

their efforts to help are not always a spur to greater maturity — as in the case of the husband who rearranged his work schedule so that he would almost always be present at meals, and did all the shopping and cooking, and even ate up all the leftovers to keep his wife from bingeing. But first prize must go to the husband who smuggled his stools into hospital and exchanged them with his wife's so that her doctors would not be able to prove she was abusing laxatives.

And then there's the sex. As a rule, anorexics and bulimics have trouble experiencing pleasure. It's the fear of losing control, according to Dr Jill Welbourne, a Bristol specialist who also works with the Eating Disorders Association. A man married to an anorexic or bulimic "may make passionate love to her" but his wife will be "dissociating" and absent herself from her body for the duration. This is not deliberate, she says, it's symptomatic.

You have to marry your own body before you can marry anyone else. If you're seven feet above your body and three feet to the right of it, and loathing it, attacking it, you're not going to be in your body long enough to hear your husband say, "how about bed, darling?"

Although fertility is a problem, especially for anorexics who have stopped menstruating,

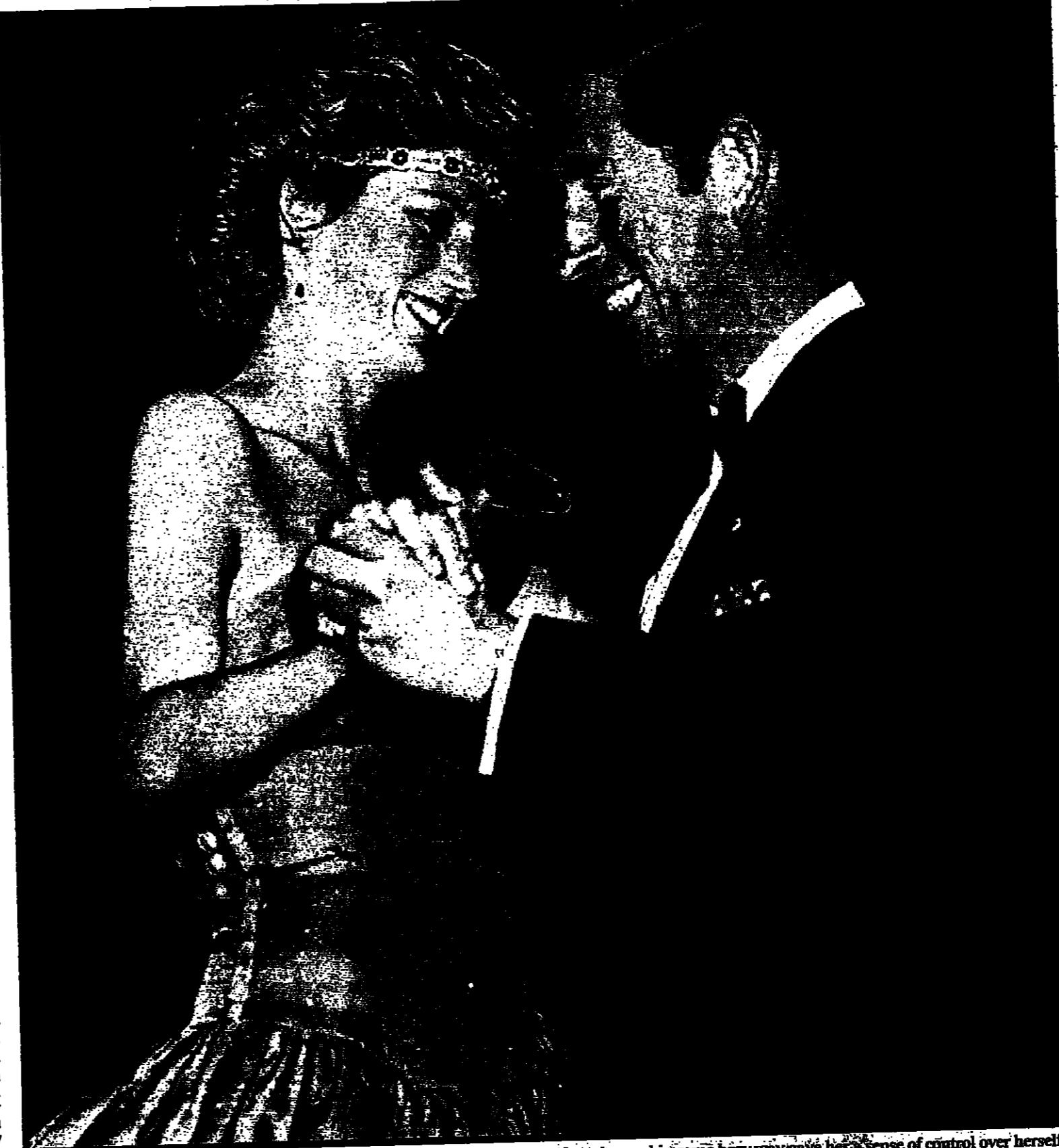
those who do manage to conceive often have a great deal of trouble dealing with the physical transformations of pregnancy.

Their worries about undernourishing their baby lead to larger questions, one sufferer told me, about "who is feeding whom". Nutrition remains a problem area after birth and indeed throughout childhood — especially if the child is a girl and starts going on diets as a teenager.

In other words, there's no area of the family that isn't touched by anorexia or bulimia. But women who seek professional help don't always find it helps their marriages. The prognosis depends on whether the illness began before or after she met her partner. "There's a group of chaps," Dr Welbourne says, "who romanticise their wives' elusive qualities when really they're looking at starving vacancy. If they fall in love with a woman who is in the grip of the disease, they are falling in love with the person she is when she is ill. So when she gets better and a bit more robust, they can't cope with it and they leave."

But any move to make marital therapy a standard part of treatment is bound to raise deeper questions about the proper management of eating disorders. If the problem is control, then isn't it better to talk about the other areas of life that feel out of control? Women need more than "medical resuscitation" to get better, Dr Welbourne says. They need someone to "go on being there for them" while they go through the painful process of growing and changing.

The odds are better when the illness hits later on, as in



Andrew Morton says the Princess's bulimia provided "a profound release of tension and in some hazy way gave her a sense of control over herself"

YOU MAGAZINE/G WILKINSON



Flora Shaw and her husband, Hugh: "I thought telling him would give me the strength to stop."

account of a postnatal breakdown, *Out of Me*, came out earlier this year, told me much the same thing. She had suffered intermittently from bulimia for years as an adolescent but talked to no one about it.

When she first told her husband, Hugh, it was because "I thought if I could name it, that would give me the strength to stop it. I was

hoping that by isolating the problem, it would go away."

Repeated failures meant huge shame and desperate attempts to hide the problem.

Often they expect magic results, or else they attribute their wife's illness to "foolishness" or lack of will-power.

Most speak of feeling helpless and

unjustly blamed by

outsiders who underestimate

the difficulties of their everyday lives.

This is why even experts who do not think

partners should be part of

treatment do concede that they

need to be educated about the

disease, for their own good as

well as for the good of the

patient, and that they, too,

deserve proper support.

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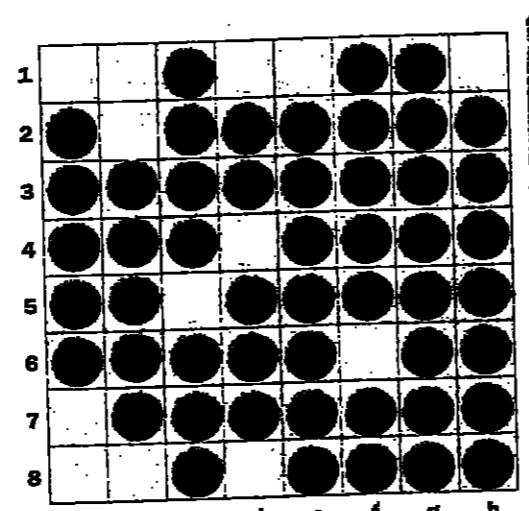
The odds are better when

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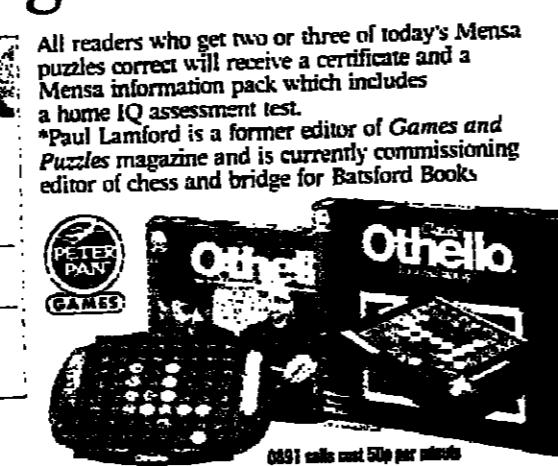
Today's puzzle is based on the game of Othello, which was invented around 1888 and originally known as Reversi. In Othello you win by having more pieces of your colour on the board at the end of the game. Each move consists of placing a counter of your own colour (each counter is black on one side and white on the other) so that one or more of the opponent's counters are sandwiched between it and one of your counters. The sandwiched counters are then flipped and change colour. If you are unable to flip a counter on any turn, then you must miss your turn and pass. You must, however, make a move if you can.

Thus, in the diagram, if White plays at b8, the black counter at c8 becomes white. You need to calculate a few moves ahead. In the diagram, White seems up against it, but with correct play, can win.

Should White play:

- at h1, flipping the counters at f1 and g1;
- at b8, turning the counter at c8?
- at b2, turning the counter at c3?
- at b1, flipping the counter at c1?

Call our Othello hotline with your answer, a, b, c, or d, before midnight tonight. The winner will receive £500. Ten runners up will receive a Classic Othello game and a further 10 runners-up will receive a £10,000 worth of prizes to be won with Challenge of the Mind



TEN MINUTE MENSA PROBLEM

Q1. What number is missing from the bow tie?

Q2. What nine-letter word has R as the first letter, the middle letter and the last letter?

Q3. Using all of the letters once only can you make one word from the letters contained in NEW DOOR?

What is your answer?

There's £100 to be won today with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Call 0891 102 725 (ex UK +44 990 200 619).

TOMORROW: PLAY BACKGAMMON FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN MORE PRIZES

All readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

*Paul Lamford is a former editor of Games and Puzzles magazine and is currently commissioning editor of chess and bridge for Batsford Books

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Jill Neville

'I trusted her and she trusted me... We really did love each other'

Professor Lewis Wolpert is a distinguished embryologist and one of the country's leading popularisers of science. He was born in Johannesburg, and moved to London in his early 20s. Here, he gives a poignant tribute to Jill Neville, the novelist, critic and broadcaster, whom he married in 1994 and who died of cancer in June. Rebellious and politically radical, she arrived in London from Sydney in the early 1950s. An enthusiastic hostess, she and Wolpert held some of the best parties in literary London

She begged me never to try to write a descriptive piece. She thought it was something at which I was hopeless. When I came back from the even, she wanted to know details: what it was really like, some feel of the people. I always disappointed her. Were she here she would laugh, she always did, at my refusal to listen to her advice yet again. But then we disagreed about everything. People were often shocked at the apparent violence of our discussions. But then we were both impatient, speedy colonials, who never quite learnt the niceties of English conversational restraint.

From her mother Jill inherited her speediness. I never understood just how she managed to devour a meal so quickly, seemingly almost by magic. Boyfriends at restaurants were horrified to see expensive dishes vanish. She had strong views which she never hesitated to express, and loathed any fashionable movement, particularly if it smelt of political correctness. She inherited from her colonial father some of his steely qualities that spread into an intellectual integrity. That was never more in evidence than when she knew that she was dying and behaved with unbefitting dignity and stoicism.

Jill was a romantic with intense sensitivity to everything around her. She stopped listening to the news as she could not bear to hear

about human cruelty; it made her very depressed. Factory farming enraged her and she would only eat chickens which she thought had had at least some decent evenings at the opera. She longed for nature, and complained that we lived in a too dark basement that avoided the

best and marvellous sense of fun saved her. She once, years ago, tried to kill herself by putting her head in the gas oven, but it was so dirty that she ended up cleaning it instead.

I first heard of her when I came to London in the Fifties. There was this Australian redhead living on a houseboat in Chelsea — quite wild. We could never remember how we met but became close friends from the very beginning. When a boyfriend caused a cut to her lip she phoned me late night to take her to hospital. I would go with her to a cafe on the Strand so she could watch some man she found really attractive play chess. There were stories of rival lovers throwing either her or themselves into the Thames. She moved house often and there is hardly a street in north London where she had not stayed at some time or other. Yet beneath that wild exterior I discovered a rather conventional longing for an ordered bourgeois life.

She taught me songs she knew the words of an astonishing number and almost longed to be a nightclub singer. She complained that I never took her dancing. Just a few drinks and she was off. She destroyed several evenings by her insistence that everyone had to stop talking and start dancing. I naturally objected: she saw my behaviour as tram-line, unwilling to try something new. But there was one thing on which



"There was this Australian redhead living on a houseboat in Chelsea — quite wild. We became close friends from the very beginning"

we had qualified accord — we could have qualified for the British sleeping team. We were also both unenthusiastic about formal dinners, which I regarded as detention for good behaviour. But we could give great, noisy parties.

In the words of a close friend she was beautiful, supremely amusing and very, very kind and had an extraordinary bent for friendship. For one friend, researching a book, it was her willingness to go on adventures to men's strip clubs.

Another, much younger, felt that

Jill had changed her life by making her feel lovely and teaching her where to put lost love. One saw herself as the curator of a Jill Neville Museum in the form of a train with many carriages, and she helped an old friend get over his writer's block with daily letters. She even overcame her resistance to modernity and became dependent on a word processor.

She had weaknesses that were

paradoxical. She needed praise, since she saw her upbringing, and indeed mine, as those of unlicked cubs. Yet at the same time she loved her body, her own presence, and was a fool to flattering pursuit. How else could she have married two previous disastrous husbands?

She lied consistently about her age and everyone thought her at least ten years younger — they were even somewhat irritated when the obituaries revealed she was 65. She would have been furious that the truth was out.

We were happiest at her cottage in Normandy. She had bought it on a romantic impulse. It was little more than a cow's hotel but in lovely countryside and she transformed it into a magical place. While we had visitors, what she liked best was for me to work in the mornings and for her to dream and write and then go to the coast for

lunch. Dreaming was an essential part of her life, something I never understood. Why could she not go to her desk and write, like me? What was all this waiting for the inner dream to speak?

Her novels and poems came out of those dreams. What she felt about writing and poetry comes out in the speech she gives Robert Graves in her play about him and Laura Riding. "How can it mean so much? Poetry is the purest mystery. Look, when a poem is about to be born — the air changes, everything goes still ... Where it springs from God knows, but gradually the whole bright semi-circle of light expands; then you look down the page, the poem is written, revised and revised again — the words are living and the language itself is revived, and the poem will go on sending out its mystery and energy and glory into the future, into people strange in ways we cannot imagine, but who will be amazed how close to us they

feel. Genius is the only true godhead. Love is astonished always. So is the new-born poem ... it proves that the world isn't just a pile of faeces after all."

She would spend much time in consciously dreaming and reflection. I would interrupt her and ask, to her irritation, what she was thinking. "I am doing sevens," was a typical reply. This meant she was going through her life seven years at a time. She could tell exactly where we had been during any period of our 15 years together.

When I fell ill in California a few years ago, she insisted that we get married when I returned. She wanted to be sure that when I died she would be more than just someone at the funeral. And during my depression she prevented me from committing suicide by promising to help me in a year's time if I was not better. I knew I could trust her. And she knew that she could trust me. We really did love each other.

The latest fashion victims — boys

Children are giving street cred to the elite symbols of their parents, says Jane Gordon

There was something particularly striking about the holiday pictures of the Blair family that appeared in newspapers over the weekend. Not Cherie's hair, or Tony's jeans or even little Catherine's pretty floral frock.

What struck a chord with parents across the country was the way in which the two Blair boys were dressed. In a display of self-labelling that is becoming endemic among the emergent generation, Euan, 13, and Nicholas, 11, wore bold sweatshirts emblazoned with the legend POLO, and POLO Ralph Lauren.

Alongside the first step, the first tooth and the first words, today's young have added a new developmental milestone — the first item of designer clothing.

Where previous generations of adolescents have rebelled against the established order by creating their own movements that have spawned a definite and original uniform — from the winklepickers and drainpipe trousers of the Fifties to the spiky hair and safety-pins of the Seventies punks — the young of the Nineties have, instead, borrowed the elitist status-symbols of adults and given them street credibility.

In a trend that crosses the class spectrum and reaches out along the length and breadth of Britain, young people are wearing the kind of labels their parents only ever



A new developmental milestone epitomised by Tony Blair's sons on holiday in Tuscany — the first item of designer clothing

dream about — Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Versace, Armani, Moschino.

Not, of course, the expensive and discreet couture creations of these designers, but the cleverly marketed — and often terribly obvious — sports ranges that are just about accessible to the spoilt child on a pocket money budget (£25-£40 for a T-shirt, £75-£125 for a sweatshirt, £100-£150 for

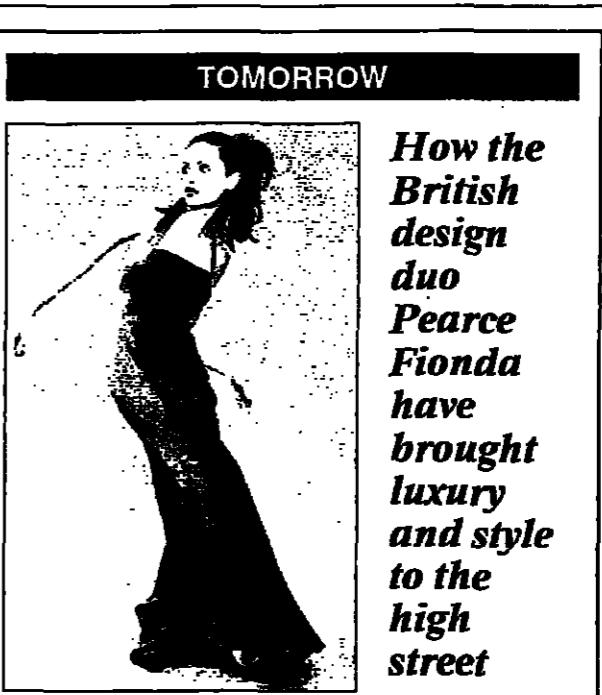
boys and not girls who are keen to brand themselves as fashion victims. It is the sons and not the daughters of my friends who are insisting on wearing DKNY, Tommy Hilfiger, Paul Smith, YSL. The girls, while occasionally being lured by a pair of loged trainers, are as happy with the cheap high street brands such as Top Shop and Miss Selfridge as they ever have been. But from the age of about nine or ten the boys are becoming more and more obsessive about the importance of wearing the right labels.

One friend of mine — a single mother on a limited income — was astonished when her 15-year-old son demanded a pair of £165 Gucci loafers for his birthday. It was as if, she said, the possession of these shoes would give him almost magical powers, like Dorothy's red slippers in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Indeed, in rather the same way that my five-year-old son has confidence from wearing his favourite Superman dressing-up suit, so the older boy bolsters his own self-esteem by adopting labels that he perceives to be — as they

might say — as well safe as the play costume of the superhero. The psychologist and writer Dorothy Rowe confirms that, for young males, items of designer wear can, in effect, be empowering.

There are a number of reasons why the present generation of young males are wearing these boldly loged designer clothes, and one of them is that they might feel that those labels have a kind of magical property. The more helpless you feel the more you need magic," she says. "The words Ralph Lauren written in huge letters across



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Rumours of a genre's demise continue to be exaggerated; the fathers of Impressionism get their due; gallery round-up

Fruit and veg still speaking volumes

Richard Cork admires the major New York show of still lifes heading for the Hayward Gallery

In an era dominated by speed, violence and dynamic change, the still life might easily have been pushed aside by restless 20th-century artists. After all, its quiet pleasures seem to belong to an earlier, more contemplative age. What point could there be in scrutinising a few household objects on a table when the modern world's energetic excitements clamour for attention?

Against the odds, though, still life has continued to fascinate even the most audacious innovators. So important did this unlikely subject become that still life images are firmly lodged at the centre of modernism. Only now, though, are they being explored in a substantial international exhibition.

Objects of Desire is the beguiling title chosen by Margit Rowell, chief curator of drawings at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the paintings she has assembled include some of the most delectable in European art. If the show is equally well installed when it travels to the Hayward Gallery this autumn, London is in for a treat.

Cézanne occupies a place of isolated honour in the first space, with a magisterial still life executed a few years before the present century began. Endowing his fruit, ginger jar and eggplants with a grandeur at once incontestable and unforced, he persuades us that these ordinary objects are as

noble as the imperious Provençal mountain presiding over so many of his landscapes.

But there is danger in Cézanne as well as stability. The ginger jar has been tipped forward, as if seen from a different vantage. As for the apples and pears, they are clustered on a plate so tilted that they seem likely to fall off the edge. Even at this stage in the show, stillness is already being challenged.

After the Cubists encountered Cézanne's work, they made the objects in their studios more agitated. In a 1908 painting, Picasso placed a human skull on a pink and orange tablecloth, pierced by thrusting lines. A framed Cubist nude presses forward from the shadows at an uneasy angle. Even the artist's palette becomes a symbol of aggression, bristling with brushes as menacing as knives.

Less than a year later, Picasso appears to restore order in a cooler, more refined painting of a fruit dish. But the table turns up at a vertiginous angle, and around the same time Braque turned a similar dish into a whirling mass of splintered forms. The traditional solidity of the still life was breaking up.

Léger shows the fragmented apples and bananas sliding down a table no longer able to keep them steady. Rather than plummeting to the floor, however, they end up floating through space in later Cubist



Picasso's lifelong passion for the still life is well represented in New York, beginning with the Cubist years and extending to his *Still Life with Skull, Leeks and Pitcher*, from 1915

paintings. The pedestal table in Braque's great 1911 canvas from the Pompidou Centre is more up-ended than ever. But the slivers of musical instruments seem to hover mysteriously above it.

A similar sense of weightlessness is achieved in Matisse's work during the same period. Matisse, however, did not share the Cubists' passion for angular austerity. He rejoiced in colour at its most sumptuous, and his *Spanish Still Life* allows leaves and flowers to merge with an ornamental cover on the sofa behind.

At this point, the survey's appealing title is triumphantly borne out. No pears and bananas could be more edible than the ones heaped so temptingly within the bowl Derain painted in 1912. The yellow flowers suspended so

mysteriously in Redon's mystical pastel appear to be drifting through the night sky. And Manet's purple cyclamens seem to be offered up to us like an enticing gift.

But the enchantment could not last. Picasso brings the exhibition back to everyday reality by incorporating a "found" spoon in his painted bronze *Glass of Absinthe*. And Duchamp went further, brazenly declaring in 1913 that a bicycle wheel mounted on a painted wooden stool had every right to be considered a work of art.

After the protracted trauma of the First World War, the still life lost whatever vestiges of innocence it might previously have possessed. Around 1921 Miró turned his table top into a potential charnel-house. The rabbit perched on its jagged surface may be alive at the moment, but a nearby fish seems ominously inert. They

both look like sacrificial victims, waiting to be consumed, and the glass phials clustered in Hannah Höch's gleaming canvas might well be intended to serve some sinister, clinical purpose.

Soutine replaced such alarming suppositions with brute fact. His visceral painting of a beef carcass, suspended in the abattoir and still smeared with blood, restored the still life to its centuries-old role as a memento mori. The wildness of Soutine's brushwork conveys the full extent of his anguish, and Ensor performs the astonishing feat of making a giant red cabbage take on a monstrous identity.

Surrounded by clown-like masks, who leer and thrust their noses into its burgeoning leaves, the cabbage threatens to engulf the fruit and flowers assembled beside it. Here, in 1928, this reclusive Belgian painter seemed obsessed by the malignancy and predatory power of the natural world.

Plenty of viewers dismissed him as an ageing crank, but a decade later Ensor's vision did not seem so eccentric. Appalled by the civil war in his native country, Miró conveyed his horror by placing an old shoe, a bottle and some broken bread in a setting haunted by shadows and flashes of flame. It is as if a Spanish peasant had abandoned his possessions in a deserted field, and the fork puncturing an apple suggests that he might not have survived his enemy's assault.

As the century proceeded, so

the still life proved surprisingly adept at reflecting the unrest, destruction and tragedy unfolding around it. When the Second World War began, Dalí summed up the gathering despair by placing a useless black telephone receiver on a dish with three grilled sardines. Beyond, a nightmarish black hill looms over a trio of vulnerable, childlike figures in an arid landscape.

Picasso, marooned in Nazi-occupied Paris, chose skull and accompanied it with a twisted, harshly scored pitcher. But some fully grown leeks form an unexpected link between these two gruesome objects, suggesting that Picasso held out hope for new life as the struggle with Hitler neared its end.

After such intensity, the more recent sections of the show seem more celebratory. Pop Art revels in consumerist excess: scavenges society's trash-can or, in the case of Jasper Johns, wittily casts Ballantine Ale cans in a carefully painted edition of two bronzes. The last image to confront us is Domenico Gnoli's *Without a Still Life*, a meticulous painting of an empty table. But everything else in this seductive and disquieting survey suggests that the still life, in all its guises, will never go away.

• *Objects of Desire* opens at the Hayward Gallery in London (0171-928 3144), sponsored by BMW in association with The Times, on Oct 9

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

LIKE many of her generation (she was born in 1919), Prunella Clough went through a period of romantic realism before moving gradually to abstraction, and there are many who find an intensity in her art of the late 1940s and early 1950s that dissipated later. Hence her paintings seemed completely at home in the 1988 Barbican exhibition *A Paradise Lost*, which celebrated the complex delights of the Neo-Romantic movement in Britain.

On that occasion her pictures were hung close to those of David Carr (1915-1967), and a certain kinship could be seen. Now a new show compares and contrasts just these two artists, and tells something of their extraordinarily close professional relationship. The period covered is 1945 to 1964, and shows the early work of both artists off to perfection. Carr begins painting rather like Lowry, moves towards Clough and then slightly away again. Clough has the advantage of always being unmistakably Clough.

Austin/Desmond Fine Art, Pied Bull Yard, 68/69 Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-242 4443) until Aug 14

□ THE subject-matter of Jean-Marie Toussaint — beds of flowers and sun-drenched fields — resem-

bles that of his step-great-grandfather Monet. But his approach is unmistakably individual. Frequently his paintings border on abstraction, eliminating the horizon altogether to become more a colour field than a literal field full of colour. The paintings are entirely celebratory, of life, love and the senses.

Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, W1 (0171-499 0860) until Sept 4

□ IN THE new exhibition *A Cloudburst of Material Possessions*, subtitled *A fantasy on a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci*, 19 artists as varied as Peter Doig, Stephen Farthing, David Mach, Paula Rego, Michael Sandle and Boyd Webb respond in their own ways to the Queen's Leonardo drawing of the sky deluging the land below with pots and pans and mundane objects of all sorts. Some go for the deluge itself, many consider what the ground would look like after the storm. Every single one seems to have been genuinely inspired to create something individual and unpredictable.

Purdy Hicks Gallery, 65 Hopton Street, SE1 (0171-401 9229) until Sept 6

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Came to scoff, stayed to pray

A classic curator's nightmare is to have a nice, neat, crowded schedule suddenly burst open in the middle, leaving a gaping hole that requires a major exhibition, and no time to put one together. What can be done? The best move is to peer into one's own freezer to check how effectively it can be raidied.

That is precisely what Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries have done to fill the vital summer season at the McLellan Galleries, the city's mid-19th-century pride and liability. What must have struck any visitor with eyes for 19th-century art are the extraordinary riches amassed by contemporary Glasgow collectors, and in due course gifted or bequeathed to the major public collections. Because primarily of the dealer Alex Reid, Glasgow was probably the earliest place in Britain to appreciate the full splendour of Impressionism in flower. But before that the Impressionists' immediate predecessors, the painters of Barbizon and more isolated figures such as Courbet, found ready purchasers in Glasgow.

Thus one could see on display in Glasgow paintings such as Miller and Daubigny, Monticelli (who exerted a decided influence on Van Gogh), and Bastien-Lepage, who for a while influenced everyone, when they were so desperately unfashionable that few other galleries would give them wall-space. And that was only what could be readily seen: what hid in the vaults was anyone's guess. So what more natural than that Glasgow should follow up the recent spate of Impressionist shows with a show about the world into which the Impressionists had to force their way?

The *Birth of Impressionism* starts with the high academic standards of not only Ingres, the leader of the pack, but also virtually forgotten painters whose finest hours were spent like Baudry's and Delau-



Zenobia found by shepherds on the banks of the Araxus (1850) by the virtually forgotten Paul Baudry

sheer painting technique of these academic artists that one suspects many who come to see will remain to pray.

Next come Miller and his fellow landscapists of Barbizon. Miller himself emerging as a master of atmospheric lighting, particularly at dusk.

But the real novelty is in the next room, where a whole huge wall is devoted to reconstructing the effect of an official Paris Salon around 1880, when the Impressionists were just about to move centre-stage in the art world. Artists such as Dore (not the greatest painter, for all his brilliance as an illustrator), Monticelli, Troyon with his inevitable cows in pasture, military specialists such as Charles Louis Krake and Georges Louis Hyon, and Adolphe Weisz, whose special field was people going to or coming from church. There is variety and eccentricity and even yes, good old-fashioned aesthetic satisfaction.

There is also enlightenment about exactly what the Impressionists were up against. The final rooms show us, dazzlingly, what they did about it. Scotland is able to show off with wonderful Boudins, Sisley and Cézannes from the Burrell Collection, great Monet and Pissarro paintings from the National Gallery in Edinburgh, and some less familiar riches from Scottish private collections. There are impressive loans from Chicago, New York and Boston. But basically the show is home-grown — although you would never guess unless you read the labels very carefully.

• *McLellan Galleries*, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (0141-332 0077), until Sept 7

Third time even luckier

Olympian detachment is by tradition the proper stance for critics; enthusiasm, engagement even, is considered a bit soft. But I find it impossible to remain detached in the face of Glyndebourne's staging of Handel's *Orlando*. Even its third outing, substantially recast, it packs a punch that leaves you reeling. It's not so much the singing, the conducting, the production — all of these quite commanding — as the way all three conspire to reveal the bewildering extent of Handel's genius.

How could he have invented, via instinct rather than reason, a whole

OPERA



Daniel Taylor (Didymus) and Joan Rodgers (Theodora) excel in an outstanding production of sublime Handel

as even-handed as Handel's cheerfully hedonistic music; well, you have only to look around you.

The American conductor Daniel Beckwith takes a slightly more romantic view of the score than his predecessors, emphasising the sheer beauty of the music without risking descent into the merely religious. The playing of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is beyond all praise. As for the new cast (the third), snap swings-and-roundabouts judgments would be useful; they all rise heroically to the challenges that Handel sets them.

Joan Rodgers' full-toned, creamy

lyric soprano is ideal for the title role, and while she spins Handel's long lines with innate eloquence, there is an equally eloquent flutter in her tone to suggest that bat-squeak of doubt at the edge of her certainties. Jean Rigby's gentle, plushy mezzo is as well suited to friend-keeper of the Christian conscience — her momentary loss of faith at the start of the third act is soul-

shaking.

Any fears that David Daniels, on

earlier duties as Nero in Munich,

would be missed prove groundless; the young Canadian Daniel Taylor is

another of that new generation of

sopranos who happen to be men, his tone seraphically pure, his musicianship impeccable. Paul Nilan as Septimius, the "voice of reason" who nevertheless flicks the switch for the double execution, was as involved in the drama as in the singing; Sellar's focus on the character has been noticeably tightened in this revival. Jonathan Best's President of Antioch, with an unmistakable Nixon hairline, was sinistriously fatuous. The chorus, like the orchestra, is beyond all praise. A life-changing evening.

RODNEY MILNES

To stage or not to stage? I rather suspect that radio Prommers had the better deal at the weekend, when two sessions of music-theatre took in the Albert Hall stage somewhat diffidently.

The *Gondoliers* on Saturday boasted only a semi-staging; yet the costumes, lighting and energetic attempts at the theatrical art created more sense of theatre than the supposedly fully staged King and Queen. Well done both on Sunday. With costumes and neckerchiefs, the BBC Singers set the carnival trend for both piebald and pantomime Venice; and Felicity Palmer and Richard Sturt as an incomparable Duchess and Duke of Plaza-Toro footed it feyly in front of the orchestra, with Casilda (Mary Hegerty), Luiz (Timothy Robinson) and the rest of their dysfunctional extended family.

But often Sullivan's endless patter and chatter grew wearisome without its physical counterpart and, apart from the Duke and Duchess, only Donald Maxwell, as Don Alhambra, really knew how to exploit G&S's unique chemistry of word and music. Rehearsing the dialogue might just have fit a fuse of two; instead, John Wells devised and read a compensatory narration.

The real gains of this first ever Proms *Gondoliers* were

Putting on half a show

BBC PROMS

purely musical. Without visual distractions, the ear could relish the skill of duets and ensembles such as *A regular royal Queen* and *In a contemplative fashion*, especially when sung by the likes of Jamie MacDougall (Marco) and Rosemary Joshua (Gianetta), and played with the urbane finesse of the BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth.

Albert's shameless sending-up of the very idea of an egalitarian utopia seemed, for a retrospective moment, almost obscene in the light of Kurt Weill's anguished and disillusioned dreams of a brave new world in his *Mahagonny Songs* and *Seven Deadly Sins*. The schoolgirl-wif (Kate Fenwick) who had haunted *Mahagonny* with her balloon now became Anna II, the counterpart of the exploitative "sister," Anna I, magnificently sung by Marie McLaughlin.

out for them on a Sunday afternoon in the Albert Hall.

A set of six contemporary German cabaret songs was supposed to set the scene and cunningly introduce the group of outsiders who would set out for Mahagonny. A late-night Prom, with darkness, a steamed-up Albert Hall and a warmed-up audience would have been the obvious time and place. As it was, a sparse and sober afternoon, an under-exploited arena and an unexploited audience, seemed to cramp into a tightly packed tent, from where it was impossible to see the stage, or snatch some space by one of the exits. This, however, meant enduring an aural assault as strains of big beat techno, hardcore jungle and soulful drum and bass from surrounding stages competed with a harder, rockier edge.

The songs hung dark in the air. *Mahagonny* struggled with some whimsical and literally disjointed directorial ideas as arms and legs were discovered in suitcases and the cast, for all their antics, failed to engage in the idiom, and therefore with their audience.

Albalius's long-term thinking became evident and stronger in detail, as the cast travelled with Weill to the United States in *The Seven Deadly Sins*. The schoolgirl-wif (Kate Fenwick) who had haunted *Mahagonny* with her balloon now became Anna II, the counterpart of the exploitative "sister," Anna I, magnificently sung by Marie McLaughlin.

HILARY FINCH

A rare live performance by Massive Attack in London's Finsbury Park on Saturday evening left the audience in a dilemma. Fans of the Bristol beats band, which was headlining an all-day dance festival, had to choose either to cram into a tightly packed tent, from where it was impossible to see the stage, or snatch some space by one of the exits. This, however, meant enduring an aural assault as strains of big beat techno, hardcore jungle and soulful drum and bass from surrounding stages competed with a harder, rockier edge.

The remainder of the 90-minute set mixed former hits *Daydreaming*, *One Love Eurochild* and *Hymn of the Big Wheel* with down-tempo courtesy of Andy. The show should have ended after a superb *Unfinished Sympathy*, as the less memorable tracks which followed simply failed to subdue the audience.

The numerous rock singers — including Jarvis Cocker, Sharleen Spiteri, Bob Geldof, Placebo's Brian Molko — watching from the side of the stage, however, seemed suitably impressed.

LISA VERRICO

along to lyrics, and Massive Attack made it easy to participate. Long gone are the group's days as a simple sound system, when vocalists sparred over samples and scratching. The addition of keyboards, guitar and — most importantly — live drums had replaced the floaty feel of the band's recorded output with a harder, rockier edge.

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LISA VERRICO

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BBC PROMS The 22nd concert of the season is conducted by Yakov Kreizberg. The Berlin Philharmonic Symphony performs Brahms' *Symphony No. 2*; Haydn's *Concerto for Violin* (soloist Gil Shaham); the London premiere of *John Marren's Rebus* and Sibelius' *Finlandia*. The Federal folks after the interval. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7. 10.77-5.8.21. £20-£25. Tonight, 7.30pm.

GREASE Luis Goss takes over the role of Danny. Cambridge, Earls Court, WC2 (0171-434 5283). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed. Sat, 3pm. £12-£15.

LIFE IS SHORT Alan Bates plays a man who ends the events of his life while his Georgia Holley lies in a coma. Harold Pinter directs Simon Gray's "profound comedy". Aldwych, The Abode, WC2 (0171-416 0262). Open 10pm. Mat 11pm. £12-£15. Tues-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 2.30pm.

ROME AND JULIET The Kirov Ballet performs the original version by Leonid Lavrovsky, set to Prokofiev's magnificent score. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-834 1200). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 2.30pm; Sun, 3pm. £20-£25.

EDINBURGH This evening, the Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival features a distinctive line-up from America at the Cotton Club, including trombonist George Mraz.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mosey

given by the Suffolk Youth Orchestra. A varied programme includes excerpts from Holst's comic opera, *The Perfect Fool*; Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony and Debussy's *La Mer*.

Bassett-Matthews Concert Hall (01723 453543). Tonight, 7.30pm.

EDINBURGH This evening, the Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival features a distinctive line-up from America at the Cotton Club, including trombonist George Mraz.

LEEDS New Palm Productions presents a four-week "thriller season", until August 20, opening today at the Grand with French farce *Claude et le secret de la mort* by Odyssee. The Sound of Music by William Farrel, opens on August 12. Grand, 46 Newgate (0113-245 0000). Tues-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 2pm and mat Thurs, 2pm. Until Aug 10.

LONDON GALLERIES

An *Immaculate* 50 Years of Painting: A Celebration of Art (0171-258 3400). Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (0171-581 6333). Delibes Pictures: Stephen Cox (0181-692 5254). Gordon Ross' *Abstracts* in Trafalgar Square (0171-820 0000). The Queen's Men: *Monarchs* (0171-309 7319). London International Gallery of Children's Art: *Homelessness* (0171-258 0000). The Queen's Men: *Monarchs* (0171-309 7319).

ELSEWHERE

ALDEBURGH Billed as an Anglo-Russian Prom, this evening's concert is

conducted by Yakov Kreizberg.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jenny Kingdom's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

■ ART Henry Goodman, Roger Allam and Judi Dench in *Richard III*. Exceptionally interesting drama about the last English usurper and an almost amateur parenting session. National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-252 7268). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 2.30pm. £12-£15. Until Aug 23.

WATERSHED DOWN The New Shakespeare Company brings together more than 60 young people, ages 12-16, for its production of Richard Adams' *Watershed Down*. Theatres at the Royal Exchange, 200 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-436 2231). Tues-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 2.30pm.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Goff Brown's assessment of films showing in London and (where indicated with the symbol *) on release across the country

17/7 Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm. Until Aug 9.

18/7 Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm. Until Aug 9.

19/7 Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm. Until Aug 9.

20/7 Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm. Until Aug 9.

21/7 Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm. Until Aug 9.

22/7 Mon-Sat,

Why ET will never call home

Arthur C. Clarke on the myth of the extra-terrestrials

It is probably too much to hope that the US Air Force's belated revelations about the source of many UFO sightings will put a stop to this tedious nonsense. Could anyone ever have seriously imagined that the Earth's skies have been full of alien visitors for the past half century, without the matter being settled one way or another?

For decades now, the radars of the great powers have been able to track all objects much larger than a football that come anywhere near our planet. Of course, it may be argued that alien spacecraft invariably use Stealth techniques – but it is hard to see why they should bother, since they seem so willing to make contact. In any case, that would hardly help them to evade detection by the legions of amateur astronomers who constantly scan the skies.

Though it is perhaps unkind to do so, I would like to remind the UFO fanatics how earlier, widely accepted stories of alien meetings turned out to be ludicrous fabrications. Does anyone still remember George Adamski's *Flying Saucers Have Landed?* He reported cities on the other side of the Moon, and I believe there was once a lady who made a good living lecturing about her honeymoon on Venus.

Well, we have seen the lunar Farside (and I've never forgiven the *Apollo 8* crew for resisting the temptation to report a black monolith there) and we know that any Venesian rivers are likely to consist of molten lead. We will have to go further afield than our immediate neighbours to look for intelligent life – perhaps life at all.

What is particularly ludicrous is the widespread idea (à la *Independence Day*) that for several decades some super-secret branch of the United States Government has had alien spacecraft – and aliens – in its possession. Anyone who will believe that will believe anything. I have known many of the people who would have been involved in such a cover-up, and I can assure you that it would have a half-life of about 48 hours. As one Pentagonist once remarked sadly: "I wish it was true – then all us majors would be colonels." I think that settles the matter; but then of course, I may be part of the conspiracy.

Indeed, at least two of my friends were on the CIA committee looking into the UFO question, at a time when it was seriously considered that spaceships might be landed. One member (the late Professor Luis Alvarez, now famous for his theory that dinosaurs were exterminated by an asteroid 65 million years ago) told me how easy it was to dispose of most of the sightings, because the average observer simply does not know how many remarkable things there are in the sky.

Frankly, if you have never seen a UFO, you're not very

well informed.

And who says that scientists have no sense of humour?

Royal first

FOR the first time, the Queen will be addressing the opening session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which takes place this October in Edinburgh. Though she has always attended the biennial CHOGM in a ceremonial capacity, she has never spoken formally to the massed ranks of government heads. It has always been felt to be too political an event for her further involvement.

This time, however, the Queen has been moved to give a speech

in her own right.

Other formalities will be performed as usual. The Queen will receive all of her Prime Ministers in private audience at Holyroodhouse, a mile or so from the conference centre. She will also attend the formal dinner, an occasion always much enlivened by the African ministers' wives.

She is being encouraged in this

by the Government which feels the Commonwealth was under-used and underplayed by the Tories.

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MUCKING OUT THE BYRE

Labour most needs reform in its own backyard

August is the cruellest month for the Labour Party. In summers past there have been brushfires of dissent while Tony Blair has been on holiday but in every case the damage was containable, the memory of discontent fading with the Mediterranean sun. This summer could, however, be different, not least because Labour is in Government and expectations high. Lord Simon's perceived conflict of interest and Robin Cook's marital difficulties are very different matters. The first is a genuine cause for public concern, the second is a source of private concern with no bearing on Mr Cook's discharge of his official duties.

Both, whatever the merits of the matter, dent Labour confidence but both are passing squalls compared to the concern aroused by the death of Gordon McMaster. The circumstances surrounding the death of the late member for Paisley South grow increasingly disturbing. His suicide is a private tragedy, but it also raises questions of legitimate public interest. The picture emerging of the Scottish Labour Party is not an edifying one.

The picture that we have of the Parliamentary Labour Party's reaction is not particularly reassuring either. Several of Mr McMaster's colleagues knew of his difficulties but the Whips' Office in which he served does not seem to have played the pastoral role that it might. Moreover, the Labour authorities have only agreed to an inquiry into the unhappy circumstances of Mr McMaster's death after a newspaper revealed some of the contents of his suicide note at the weekend. Did they know of the note's existence, and its contents, before? If they did, why did they wait for press reports to emerge before initiating an investigation?

There is a prima facie case for an inquiry. The MP was the victim of a whispering campaign as well as a debilitating disease and those rumours sprang from the unweeded garden that is the Labour Party in the West of Scotland. In a battle for political supremacy in Paisley, where Labour's authority is unquestioned, solidarity became a forgotten virtue.

BURIED BOUNTY

A new law should better protect our hidden treasures

Twenty-two Roman gold coins, some minted as late as AD461 when the Roman legions had already been withdrawn from Britain for two generations, were unveiled yesterday at the British Museum. The hoard, found in West Sussex and "seized to the Crown" by a Chichester coroner last month, is as historic as the evacuation which it chronicled. For it is almost certainly the last time that the ancient law of "Treasure Trove" will be invoked. From next month this remaining piece of medieval legislation, thought an anachronism in the world of computer-controlled archaeology, will be replaced by a new Treasure Act. It is perhaps a pity that, in order to better protect our buried history, we should lose Treasure Trove as part of our verbal and legislative heritage. The archaeological end, however, justifies the modernising means.

Under the law of Treasure Trove, anyone finding gold or silver beneath the ground had to surrender the treasure to a coroner's jury. If there was evidence that the hoard had been buried for safekeeping with the intention of later recovery, it was forfeit and handed over to the Crown; if, however, it had been buried in a grave or merely lost, the finder was the keeper. The law, however, became increasingly difficult to administer. It entailed deciphering the intention of the person who buried the treasure.

The new law sensibly abolishes the need to interpret the motives of men long dead. Instead, it defines treasure as anything having more than 10 per cent gold or silver and anything more than 300 years old. Not only coin will now be subject to reporting

After the corruption allegations which tarnished Monklands Council, the revelation that Glaswegian councillors were being investigated for bartering votes in return for junkets and the unhappy story of Mohammad Sarwar's alleged bribery, the last thing the party needed was another scandal. The Scottish Labour Party has sought to portray each of the problems afflicting it as an isolated matter but their frequency and severity points to a deeper malaise.

The same complacency and arrogance which infected the Tories after too long in power at Westminster seems to have spread to the Labour Party in Scotland. The root of the problem lies, perversely, in Labour's past success in Scotland. Mr Blair's transformation of his party has proceeded more slowly north of the border. In England, Labour had to transform its ideology and its image to reach out to lost voters. That process involved facing down the corrupt and the crook in English redoubts such as Lambeth and Liverpool. Since the Scottish party was moderate and, more to the point, electorally successful, reform seemed less pressing. Even though it has been Scots such as Gordon Brown and Alastair Darling who have been in the vanguard of New Labour the Scottish party has, in more than one sense, been left behind.

The case for action is now, however, overwhelming. Labour in Scotland, sure of electoral dominance, has treated local authorities like feudal holdings. In five weeks' time Scots will be asked if they wish the Labour Party to create another layer of government which it, in turn, expects to dominate. Many Scots will ask if those Labour will choose to run a Scottish Parliament will be of the same calibre as those who ran Monklands, run Glasgow and operate in Paisley. The thought that there will be new jobs for those particular boys is hardly an incentive to support devolution. Labour must show, and quickly, that it is serious about cleaning up the mess in its kailyard if it is to justify the faith Scotland's voters have placed in it so far.

Britannia's fate under review

From Rear-Admiral C. B. Williams

Sir, Having been involved with *HMY Britannia*'s initial technical problems and also having been in charge of her refit for a number of years, I am delighted that the Government is having a rethink about her future (replies, August 4).

The ship's hull is sound and good for many more years. The number of her crew is excessive for a modern ship but this could be dramatically reduced by removing the antiquated boilers and steam turbines and replacing them with diesel-electric propulsion and bridge control of the engines.

No modern design could replace the regular lines and profile of this splendid vessel.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. WILLIAMS,
16 Montserrat Road,
Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.
August 4.

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, Well sink me new Labour, old Britannia! What a golden opportunity missed for a brand-new, prestigious British-built ship, showing the world we can still lead in maritime technology. Costing of renovations has always been hazardous and I forecast that the £50 million quoted will inevitably exceed the £60 million price of a new vessel.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House,
Widhern, Andover, Hampshire.
August 4.

From the Minister without Portfolio

Sir, You report today that I have always been determined that *HMY Britannia* should be saved and that I was a "key figure" in brokering a solution to make it possible.

Aside from the fact that such a solution has yet to be found, I have played no role whatsoever in any formal or informal discussion of the matter and I have no intention of doing so. Your correspondent could easily have checked this with me when he spoke to me before he wrote his article. But then, to do so might have spoiled a good story.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MANDELSON,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall, SW1.
August 4.

Changes at Radio 4

From Mr Andrew Coker

Sir, While welcoming the changes Mr James Boyle proposes for the Radio 4 schedule (reports, July 31) may I recommend a further refinement — the dropping of ceaseless amateur dramatics in Ambridge.

As if pantomimes, plays, revues and films performed in the village were not enough we now have a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with its play within a play.

Actors playing countryfolk play actors playing countryfolk acting: could anything be more ridiculous?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW COKER,
42 Waterloo Road, N19.
August 1.

From the Controller of Radio 4

Sir, Sir David Naish, the President of the NFU, expressed disappointment that the extended Saturday edition of *Farming Today* was being scrapped (report, July 31). It is not. The Saturday programme has been extended further to 50 minutes and remains at its 6.10am placing. It may well broadcast its agenda, but will continue to be produced by the Birmingham Rural Affairs Unit.

During the consultations before announcing the Radio 4 changes it became clear that *Farming Today* is valued as the voice of the countryside. The programmes on weekdays and weekends will build on that reputation and I will be urging the programme teams to bring their expertise and sharp journalism on farming, food and the environment to the wider Radio 4 audience.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BOYLE,
Controller, Radio 4,
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1.
August 1.

From Mr Jack Nelson

Sir, Alfred Hitchcock once calmed a soul-searching Bergman with the words "It's only a movie, Ingred".

Regarding Radio 4, dare I suggest it's only the wireless?

Yours sincerely,
JACK NELSON,
8 Moreton Drive,
Stainforth, Blackpool.
August 1.

Simple statement

From Miss Margaret Sweetnam

Sir, My latest "up-dated" bank statement replaces debit and credit with paid out and paid in. Is this the ultimate "dumbing down"?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET SWEETNAM,
9a Rutland Gate, SW7.
August 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fields for housing: green or brown?

From Mr Alan Fulford

Sir, Whilst profoundly disagreeing with the more extreme interventionist housing policies advocated by Libby Purves ("Britain's killing fields", July 29), I believe that some Government intervention in the market is inevitable if we are not to terminally deplete our scarcest natural resource — land.

Brownfield sites, however much anaerobic developers, can largely satisfy our foreseeable housing needs if the Government is properly committed to a preference for them over greenfield sites. Workable compulsory purchase powers, financial incentives and tax breaks for private-sector investors and landlords, and a move away from the taboo of medium and high-rise developments in any urban setting: these are some of the positive forces for adjusting the market focus in favour of brownfield sites.

Most importantly, a positive Government commitment to the much-needed integrated transport policy — rather than the current negative campaign against road building — will deliver the potential for the creation of attractive urban environments. For the Government simply to surrender to the housebuilding lobby, in the manner proposed by Nick Raynsford, MP, would be a crime against future generations, providing yet further evidence that, for new Labour, no part of our heritage is sacrosanct.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN FULFORD
(Chartered building surveyor),
18 Lodge Lane, Prestwood,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.
August 1.

From Mr C. W. Graham-Stewart

Sir, Your front page today makes much of an incident in which a youngster gained work experience in an operating theatre.

Holding a retractor during a routine surgical operation is no more complicated than holding a journalist's pen and notebook whilst he scratches his head trying to think up something to brighten up the front page.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. GRAHAM-STEWART
(Retired consultant surgeon),
Redburn, Evanton, Ross-shire.
August 2.

Devolution schemes in perspective

From Mr Drummond Hunter

Sir, In his anxiety to ensure that every step taken in regard to the proposed Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly should, as we Scots say, be absolutely "perjink" (Anglo, neat and tidy), Mr Andrew Rowe, MP (letter, July 28), has surely gone too far.

The referendums in Scotland and Wales will merely decide whether the Scots and the Welsh want their own democratically elected bodies.

These bodies can be established only as a result of a vote in the House of Commons.

So far as the Scottish parliament is concerned, I believe that it is the only way in which to make the 1707 Treaty of Union work in a modern context.

Yours etc,

DRUMMOND HUNTER

(Secretary,

Scottish Health Planning

Council, 1974-84).

As from: Dunraig House,

Salem, Ardnamurchan, Argyllshire.

July 29.

From Mr K. E. Martin

Sir, Your report ("What Scottish home rule will mean" (July 29), includes a list of areas of authority which "will remain with Westminster".

I note that between "medical ethics, including abortion, equality legislation" and "nuclear safety" there comes "the UK Senior Salaries Review Body".

Well done, Sir Humphrey.

Yours faithfully,

K. E. MARTIN,

Meadowbank, Bagthorpe Road,

East Rudham, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

July 25.

From Mr Adrian McMenamin

Sir, Of course, we know that Parliament will legislate following assent to the proposals in the referendums.

That reflects the Labour Party's decision to listen to the views of the people of Wales and Scotland at last.

That the people of England are content with such proposals is surely demonstrated by the crushing defeat

which the anti-devolutionary party — Andrew Rowe's party — at the recent election.

Before that election the Conservatives devoted huge effort to warning the people of England, Scotland and Wales of the dire consequences of devolution. It is to their great credit that they were to dismiss such ludicrous claims so comprehensively.

It will do Mr Rowe and his colleagues no credit at all if they choose to ignore this recent history and pretend that the Government's devolutionary schemes are part of some secret plan revealed only after the election.

Yours faithfully,

ADRIAN MC MENAMIN,

62b Oakfield Road, N4.

July 28.

From Mr J. Ordman

Sir, Your report ("What Scottish home rule will mean" (July 29), includes a list of areas of authority which "will remain with Westminster".

You make no mention of her regular appearances at the Oxford Playhouse in the late 1930s, when she was a star attraction for many undergraduates, including

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT KEE,

82 Camberwell Grove, SE5.

July 30.

Screen idol

From Mr Robert Kee

Sir, Your obituary of Rosalie Crutchley (July 31) is a rather bald affair — she was accounted a beauty in her day" must qualify bleakly as runner-up for the Faint Praise Award of the year.

You make no mention of her regular appearances at the Oxford Playhouse in the late 1930s, when she was a star attraction for many undergraduates, including

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT KEE,

82 Camberwell Grove, SE5.

July 30.

From Mr A. J. Conybeare

Sir, You report (July 30) that the Wild

Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill

would make it an offence "to allow a

dog to pursue, injure, attack or kill

wild mammals". How can I explain this to my Jack Russell who is a great little ratter?

Yours etc,

A. J. CONYBEARE,

Old Vicarage,

Woolhope, Herefordshire.

August 1.

From Mr Colin Lester

Sir, "Ordinate" is surely the right

substitute for "computer-literate" (letter,

August 2), since so many of us are

subordinate to these machines — except for hackers, of course, who are in-

subordinate.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. LESTER,

47 School Road,

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE August 4: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon attended a Council Meeting at Trinity House, Lighthouse Service Engineering Directorate, East Cowes, and was received by Her Majesty's Governor and Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight (Mr Christopher Bland).

CLARENCE HOUSE August 4: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of

The Duchess of Gloucester has become Patron of The Progressive Supranational Party (PSP) Association for five years.

Birthdays today

Professor Neil Armstrong, first man on the moon, 67; Mr Billy Bingham, football manager, 66; Mr Michael Diamond, former director, Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery, 55; Professor H.G. Dickinson, botanist, 53; Professor Sir Michael Drury, former president, Royal College of General Practitioners, 71; Miss Barbara Flynn, actress, 49; Miss Joan Hickson, actress, 91; Lord Hindlip, 57; Mr Alan Howard, actor, 60; Field Marshal Lord Inge, 62; Mr R.W. Jewson, chairman, Savills, 53; Sir Michael Kerr, QC, former Procurator-General and Treasury Solicitor, 74; Mr C.J. Kitching, secretary, Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, 52; Mr Martin Lambie-Nairn, designer, 52; Sir Bert Millichip, former chairman, Football Association, 83; Mr John Monks, trade unionist, 52; Mr Eric Nicol, group chief executive, United Biscuits (Holdings), 47; Mr Rodney Pattinson, yachtsman, 54; Mr K.P. Pearson, former Headmaster, George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, 56; Sir Eric Pountain, former chairman, Tarmac, 64; the Hon Miriam Rothschild, FRS, entomologist, 89; Mr Rob Saunders, rugby player, 29; Sir Nicholas Scott, former MP, 64; Lord Sefton of Garston, 82; Mr Peter Smith, chairman, Coopers and Lybrand, 51; Miss Theodora Turner, former marron, St Thomas' Hospital, 90; Mr John Whitaker, showjumper, 42.

Church of Scotland

Recent appointments and changes: Ordination and induction: The Rev Cameron MacKenzie to Garvald and Morham with Haddington West. **Demissions:** The Rev Lynn W. Jolly, from St Martin's, Port Glasgow. The Rev Frank Bardgett as Community Minister in Orkney. **Deaths:**

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Retirements

The Rev Iain K. Steven from Strachur and Strathlachlan. The Rev J. Gordon Grant from Edinburgh Dean. The Rev Thomas W. Tait from Rattray. The Rev Alexander K. Cassells from St Athernae, Leuchars and Guardbridge. The Rev Albert Cae from Glenmuick (Ballater).

Dublin Horse Show fights to get back on the social circuit

Sisters remember the days of glory

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TWO elderly sisters will continue the tradition of a lifetime this week when they attend Dublin Horse Show which opens tomorrow.

Brigid and Ann Daly, both in their 80s, have long been entering their horses and donkeys in the five-day event which is struggling to regain its status as one of the great social and riding occasions of Britain and Ireland.

The Dublin show was once an elegant affair of silver cutlery, fine hats and evening balls. It was a must for the socialites who attended Henley, Goodwood and Ascot. But now it holds more in common with a regatta where men and women dine on fast food and strut like peacocks in the hope of winning the best dressed prize.

The two Daly sisters, who first attended the 24-year-old show as children, lament its decline. They used to travel to the show from their home in the Curragh, Co Kildare, and continued their annual outing after they moved to London. Only the ban on travel during the Second World War stopped them. Most years they entered horses and donkeys. This year, their 13-year-old donkey mare Eve of the Park will show her skill.

Miss Bridget Daly, 82, said: "The whole show has deteriorated in a lot of ways. When we were younger, it was very classy. Everybody spent hours getting dressed up but we weren't trying to win a competition and get money for it. It was just the proper thing to do."

The horse show was strug-



Ann and Bridget Daly with five-year-old Harriet Byrne who rides their donkey Eve of the Park at horse shows in Ireland

gling for survival in the 1980s as Ireland became increasingly urban. The spring show, that other great annual agriculture event in Dublin, was abandoned because of falling attendances. But the horse show battled on.

Kerrygold, the butter brand owned by the Irish Dairy Board, came in as principal sponsors nine years ago. The company overhauled the event and made it more appealing to suburban families. Today cocktail parties and balls held in hotels and embassies are helping to put the show back on the Dublin social map.

Seven nations, Great Britain, America, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, France and Ireland, will field teams in this year's jumping competitions which have a prize fund of £230,000. The British team will be led by chef d'équipe Ronnie Massarella and include Michael Whitaker who in June won the Aschen grand-

prix, the most coveted prize in European showjumping.

Shane Cleary, chief executive of the show which is held at the Royal Dublin Society showground in Ballsbridge, said the line-up of international teams and riders surpassed expectations.

"We have the Olympic gold medallists Germany, the silver medallists USA and the individual silver medallists Switzerland, so competition during the week should be very exciting and intense."

Britannia Royal Naval College

A passing out parade was held at Britannia Royal Naval College (Commodore A.P. Masterman ADC Royal Navy) on July 31. Vice Admiral M.P. Gration, the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic's Representative in Europe (SACLANTREPREUR) took the salute.

The list of officers who passed out is as follows:

Dired Graduate Entry. Seamen

Sub Lieutenants J.M. Arney, T.J. Berry, R.W. Burden, K.S. Carolan, K. Clare, J.A. Conlin, S. Couch, A. Dunn, I.J. Dauer, R. Davis, N.M.S. Davies, S.J. Downing, N.J. Ellis, I.J. Fletcher, A.J.M. Findes, J.A. Gray, G.H. Griffiths, N. Griffiths, R.S.J. Harold, J.T. Heaps, N.J.J. Hicks, S.W.J. Higham, B.P. Howard, N.A. Howard, I.A. Howe, M.J. Instone, I.R. Jupp,

D.M. Mann, A.C. Mason, P.A. Mason, C.A. O'Brien, E.M. Perry, D.H. Pickering, G.J. Shanks, C.A. Squires, I.J. Trotman, K.L. Twigg, J.A. Varty, A.J. Walsh, M.T. Ward, I.L. Wood, S.E. Yates.

Naval College Entry. Seamen

Midshipmen M.A.J. Ainsley, L. Banks, S.A. Cust, R.T. Doherty, J.A. Edmundson, N. Fletcher, R.M.L. Gallimore, C.J. Hall, A.I. Hudson, D.J. Jones, M.L. Macdonald, M.J. Moore, S.L. Scott.

Dired Graduate Entry. Engineers

Sub Lieutenants E.P. Burns, J.E. Edwards, M.A. Goodall, D.J. McDonald, M.G. McGrath.

Dired Graduate Entry. Engineer (Training Management)

Lieutenants C.R. Darkins, J.D. Johnson, C. Jordan, P.M. Nelson, P.S. Rogers.

Direct Graduate Entry. Supply

Sub Lieutenants A. Cooper, G.F. Cox, R.F. Field, R.G. Gilbert, E.D. Sutcliffe, T.M. Wright.

Naval College Entry. Supply

Midshipmen L.M. McLellan, C.A. Rollason.

Dired Graduate Entry. 88 Flight Pilots

Sub Lieutenants S.J. Calder, O.R. Crane, M.W. Craven, H.D. Gaskell, S.G. Hammock, G.G. Heirs, C.M. Howe, A.R. Jenkins, M.R. Knight, M.J. Levine, R.A. Maghannah, J.N. Maguire, I.J. McTeer, B.G. Muirhead, C. Raynes, D.W. Thomas, D.M. Walsh, G.D. Wappner.

Naval College Entry 88 Flight Pilots

Midshipmen M.L. Ellison, D.J. Johnson, C. Jordan, P.M. Nelson, P.S. Rogers.

Direct Graduate Entry. 88 Flight Observers

Sub Lieutenants S.L. Carroll, S.C. Flitcroft, R.G. Gilbert, R.E. McMullan, C.P. Taylor.

Naval College Entry. Supply

Midshipman L.M. McLellan, C.A. Rollason.

Internationals Entry 97/1

Midshipmen A.I. Mahrazi A.S. Al Wahabi K.A.J. Al-Thajri A.S. Al-Shabi H.S.M. Al Shamsi F. Matserudin M. Mehdi F. Rahman K.H. Sewatsari R.A. Special Duties Course 2/97 Lieutenant D.J. Nickinson, Sub Lieutenants S.T. Austin, N.A. Benfell, N.J. Bowser, P.R. Burton, D.A. Collins, M.R. Edwins, B.D. Evans, D.W. Fairnie, R.S. Greenhills, J.R. Hodgson, M.L. Liddell, C. Lowe, M. McNair, D.K. Moy, S. Page, S.R. Pearce, J.P. Ryan, M.J. Smart, P. Young.

PERSONAL COLUMN

MEMORIALS - General

Deborah. On 1st August peacefully at home aged 40. Gently loved wife of the late John, mother of the late Christopher, and beloved friend of Sue.

No flowers, but a donation, if desired, to The Missionaries of the Precious Blood, 100 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 8QH.

Deborah's ashes to be scattered at St Laurence Church, London SW10 9JL.

John. On 1st August peacefully at home aged 82. Beloved husband of Patricia (nee Masterman) aged 52 years.

Beloved father of Daniel and Rebecca. Dear son of the Revd Canon Dr. Masterman, former rector of St Laurence Church, London SW10 9JL.

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Choose your fantasy team

HOW TO PLAY

- You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
- You must pick 1 GOALKEEPER, 2 FULL BACKS, 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS, 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS, 2 STRIKERS, 1 MANAGER.
- You must not exceed your budget of £35 million. You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club; if after a real-life transfer, you find you have three players from one club in your team, you must sell one of them. No player may be picked twice.
- Players and the manager must be chosen from Interactive Team Football category lists, which include code numbers and values.
- Your players and manager will accumulate points in all 1997-98 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from Saturday August 9 onwards.
- The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like whenever you like. Readers entering a mini-league should tick the box on the application form. There is no additional charge.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

POINTS AWARDED	
GOALKEEPER	+3 points
• Keeps clean sheet (per half)*	+3 points
• Scores goal	+20 points
• Saves penalty	+1 point
FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER	+3 points
• Keeps clean sheet*	+3 points
• Scores goal	+4 points
MIDFIELD PLAYER	+1 point
• Keeps clean sheet*	+1 point
• Scores goal	+3 points
STRIKER	+2 points
• Scores goal	+2 points
ALL PLAYERS	+1 point
• On winning side	+1 point
• Appearance†	+1 point
• Scores hat-trick	+10 bonus points
MANAGER	+3 points
• Wins	+3 points
• Draws	+1 point

* Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points
† Must have played for 75 minutes in the match † Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

POINTS DEDUCTED	
GOALKEEPER	-2 points
• Concedes goal	-2 points
FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER	-1 point
• Concedes goal	-1 point
ALL PLAYERS	-3 points
• Sent off	-3 points
• Booked	-1 point
• Concedes penalty	-2 points
• Misses penalty	-1 point
• Scores own goal	-1 point
MANAGER	-1 point
• Team loses	-1 point

TRANSFERS

Each team entered by August 9 will be allocated 60 transfers. From September 13 the transfer allocation will be decreased by 3 transfers each week up to December 13 when all teams registered on that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after this date will be allocated 20 transfers for the season. Full details of how to transfer will appear in *The Times* regularly when the season starts on Saturday August 9.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

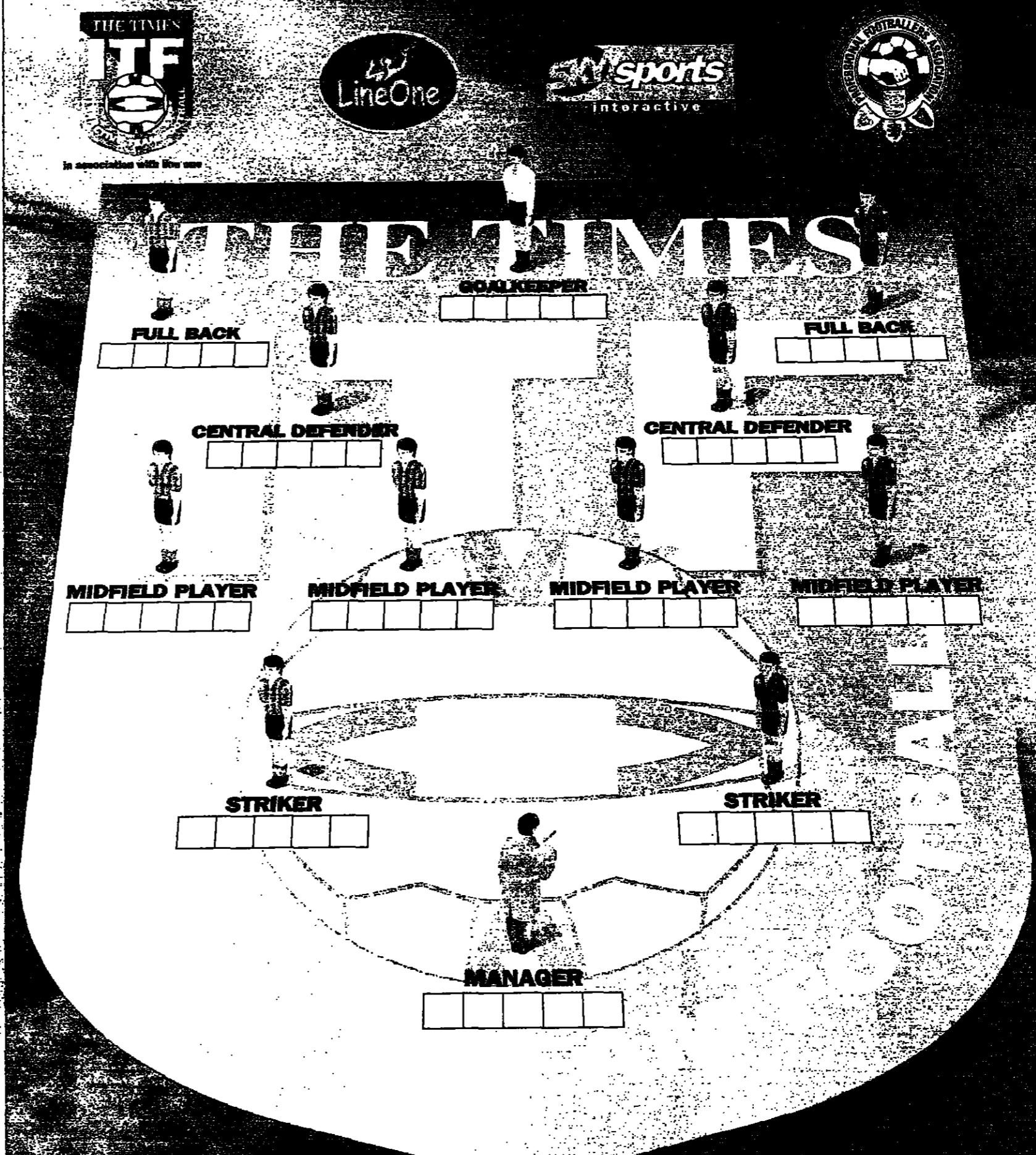
FOR POST AND FAX See the entry form below.
BY TELEPHONE: 0891 405 011 (UK)
+44 990 100 308 (Republic of Ireland)
Select your team and follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Tap in the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and manager. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). Finally you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN). Calls cost 50p per minute. Each call lasts about eight minutes.

BY THE Internet
ITF is available on *The Times* website (www.the-times.co.uk). The Internet version enables you to enter the game and play for the entire season, giving you access to league tables, fixture lists, player records and your team history.

BY LineOne
You can enter ITF free on LineOne. This includes all transfers and checking throughout the season. For your software which includes one month's free membership of LineOne plus ten hours' access to LineOne and the Internet call 0800 111 210. For more information visit the LineOne website at www.LineOne.net.

BY Sky Sports interactive
Play ITF with Sky Sports interactive on 0891 770 700 (calls charged at 50p per minute). Details on Sky Text page 118.

£100,000 WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON



HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

QUERY NUMBER: 01582 702720

In order to start scoring from the beginning of the season with 60 transfers, entries should be received by noon on Saturday, August 9. All entrants will receive a letter of confirmation and notification of their personal identification number (PIN) and terms and conditions.

How often do you read *The Sunday Times*?Less than once a month 1-2 times a month 3-4 times a month Do you have a PC at home? Yes No If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

FOR FAX ENTRY, FILL IN CREDIT CARD DETAILS BELOW

Fax your entry to: UK 0660 600 563 Outside UK +44 171 649 1726

Credit Card Number Expiry date Mastercard Visa Name on card (Supply address of registered cardholder if different from above)Signature Name Address Postcode Daytime Tel

* Calls cost 50p per minute

TEAM NAME	<input type="text"/>	(Up to 16 characters)
Goalkeeper	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Full back	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Central defender	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Midfielder	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Midfielder	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Midfielder	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Midfielder	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Striker	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Striker	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Manager	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

First Name Surname Address Postcode Daytime Tel Cheque / PO No.

This year ITF will incorporate separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.

 ITF League Women's League Student League Youth League (Under 18)

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX)

1. 18-24 2. 25-34 3. 35-44 4. 45-54 5. 55-64 6. 65+ How often do you read *The Times*?Less than once a week 1-3 times a week 4-6 times a week

THIS IS NO FANTASY

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* One month's FREE membership of LineOne.

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When it comes to playing The Times Interactive Team Football you can see that LineOne puts you ahead of the game. Not only does it give you all the latest results and match reports from Sky, but also all the news, commentary and analysis from *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and the Internet.

Through LineOne you can also chat to your competitors and seek the views of other football fans. You can even set up LineOne to bring you all the information about your own team as soon as it is available.

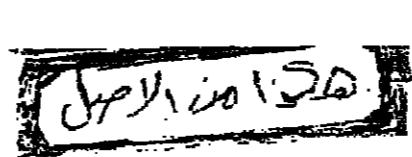
Who knows? With access to all this football information, winning the title might just become a reality.

Call for your FREE trial of LineOne and the

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*One FREE on-line entry via LineOne including all transfers. This is worth £9.



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TUESDAY AUGUST 5 1997

5th

**BUSINESS
TODAY**

**STOCK MARKET
INDICES**

FTSE 100	4895.7	(-3.9)
Yield	3.36%	
FTSE All share	2290.40	(-1.57)
Nikkei	19685.07	(-136.31)
Nasdaq	8176.94	(-15.10)*
Dow Jones	949.50	+1.36*
S&P Composite	949.50	+1.36*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.50%*	(5.11%)
Long Bond	101.75*	(102.29)
Yield	6.49%	(6.49%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7.75%	(7.15%)
London interbank	114.60	(114.75%)

STERLING

New York	1.6285*	(1.6315)
London	1.6300	(1.6370)
S	1.6300	(1.6370)
DM	1.6280	(1.6340)
FR	1.6280	(1.6340)
SF	2.4875	(2.4890)
Yen	192.80	(193.25)
E Index	105.3	(105.3)

**US \$1
YEN**

London	1.6554*	(1.6555)
DM	6.2900*	(6.2910)
FR	6.2900*	(6.2910)
SF	1.5280*	(1.5287)
Yen	118.36*	(118.40)
S Index	106.2	(106.0)

Tokyo close Yen 118.38

NORTH SEA OIL

Brat 15-day (Oct)	\$19.00	(\$18.95)
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SOLD

London close	\$322.65	(\$324.05)
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* denotes midday trading price

**Busmen
put float
windfalls
at risk**

By FRASER NELSON

BUS drivers with MTL Trust, the Liverpool operator, who are set for a £20,000 windfall when the company joins the stock market in the autumn, have put their payouts in danger by voting in favour of a 24-hour strike this Saturday.

In a dispute centring on MTL's two-tier pay structure, in which new drivers are paid much less than their more experienced colleagues, more than a thousand MTL shareholders have voted in favour of industrial action.

City analysts have said that the dispute might shave as much as £20 million from the £120 million at which the company was expected to be valued. This downgrade would wipe £4,000 from the value of each worker's potential holding — against an average increase of £1,600 a year that is under debate.

In the negotiations, which have been going on for the past month, MTL has raised its pay offer from 2.75 to 3 per cent for the higher-paid drivers and offered an 11 per cent rise on the lower pay hand.

One City analyst said: "One of the biggest areas in any bus company is cost control. Drivers are already being paid a 20 per cent discount to the UK average wage, and there's only so much more you can cut from this. Any industrial action is certainly not going to help the flotation."

The company said that the drivers had already called off two strikes and it was hoping to reach an agreement before Saturday.

Pearson plans to double market value in five years

By PAUL DURMAN

PEARSON, the troubled media and publishing group, vowed to improve its earnings by at least 10 per cent a year and to double its stock market value within five years.

Marjorie Scardino, the American who took over as chief executive at the start of the year, said last Friday's closing share price of 66p was the benchmark. "We've already begun this '1332 or bust' chart," she said. On the earnings target, she said: "We'd be disappointed if it's in low double digits, the 10 per cent range."

Pearson's diverse interests include the *Financial Times*, Penguin Books, Madame Tussauds, the Lazarus Brothers investment bank and the television company behind *Neighbours*, the Australian soap opera. In

recent years the company has disappointed investors with its loss-making acquisition of Mindscape, a computer software business, and, six months ago, the discovery of a £100 million fraud at Penguin.

Mrs Scardino said the company would concentrate on three financial targets: revenues, margins and cash generation. She said: "The kind of company we want to become is one that produces consistent stable growth year after year, no matter what the weather."

Mrs Scardino said it was "just not true" that she and Greg Dyke, who heads Pearson Television, were conducting "open warfare", as has been suggested. She also denied that a management buyout of Pearson TV had ever been put to Pearson's board. She said television was Pearson's

fastest growing market, and that she and Mr Dyke were working together to develop opportunities.

Encouraged by better than expected half-year results, the City drove Pearson's share price 26p higher to 692.5p.

Pearson reported a pre-tax profit of £80.7 million on sales 2 per cent higher at £958 million. The improvement from a £50.2 million profit last year was helped by a £31.3 million profit on disposals, mainly from its shares in Flextech, the cable television programming company that yesterday denied its chief executive Roger Luard was planning to resign. Earnings rose from 2.5p to 11p and the interim dividend is increased 9 per cent to 7.5p a share.

Operating profits from continuing businesses almost doubled to £65.5 million. led

by a strong performance from the *Financial Times*, which increased its contribution from £3.5 million to £22.4 million on the back of strong advertising, record circulation and reduced costs. Penguin made £20.4 million (£7.7 million). Mindscape cut its losses to £15.1 million (£39 million).

Mrs Scardino said: "We think we are making good progress. We feel really good about these half-year results."

Pearson has recruited Peter Jovanovich, president of McGraw-Hill Educational and Professional Publishing, the largest school and college publisher, to replace Larry Jones as chairman of Addison Wesley Longman, the group's educational publisher.

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City Diary, page 27

Scardino: chart of '1332 or bust'

**Payout up
33% at
buoyant
HSBC**

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HSBC Holdings, the UK's biggest bank, marked the half-way stage of an ambitious £1 billion global acquisition programme with higher than expected interim results.

To celebrate the 13 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £2.6 billion, HSBC, which owns Midland Bank, lifted its half-year dividend by 33 per cent to 20p, payable on October 8. Earnings per share rose 10 per cent to 66p. A pleased market pushed the shares 44p p higher, to 223.8p.

The HSBC acquisition team, spearheaded by Sir William Purves, group chairman and John Bond, his chief executive, has spent some £600 million in the six months to June 30 with plans to match that figure in the second half of the year.

HSBC has also agreed in principle to buy a 19.9 per cent stake in Grupo Financiero Serfin in Mexico, and increase its investment in Banco Santiago in Chile to 6.99 per cent.

To cap its Latin American expansion programme, HSBC has agreed to acquire the holding company of the Roberto Group, a major financial services company in Argentina. Sir William said the investments made in the first half of the year "will broaden the

group's platform for growth into the next century".

Closer to home, the HSBC chairman moved to dampen speculation that the group was keen to make a UK acquisition. He said: "We do keep our eyes open, but we don't have a shopping list and the board have not considered anything in recent times. We watch the UK market as we watch all markets — we are a global player."

Midland reported a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £229 million, and a 10 per cent increase in assets, to £10.5 billion, in the first six months.

Sir William indicated that the fall in UK banking's cost-to-income ratio to 57 per cent from 64.1 per cent in the same period last year, would have been more but for pay awards and increased staff and investment at First Direct, Midland's telephone bank. In the first six months of the year, Midland took a share of almost 4 per cent share of new mortgage business.

Hong Kong Bank, in Hong Kong, lifted profits to £394 million (£368 million), while Hong Kong Bank and its subsidiaries contributed £3 million less than last time, at £815 million. Sir William said he was confident about business prospects after the "hand over" from British control of Hong Kong to China. Profits from HSBC America rose £27 million to £142 million, with Marine Midland Bank's acquisition of First Federal Savings and Loan of Rochester being fully integrated.

Dealing profits at HSBC were mixed after a £5 million improvement in foreign exchange trading results were offset by a £13 million fall in derivatives. Equity and other trading results were down £51 million, largely due to an underwriting transaction in Hong Kong that went wrong. Of the loss, Sir William said: "These things happen from time to time — it's what investment bankers do."

Camelot sources said Mr Rigg had been considering a move for the past two years. He had the choice of either seeing Camelot through its bid for the next lottery licence, up for renewal in September 2001, or taking on a new challenge. He has received



John Bond, chief executive, has led an acquisition team that has spent some £600 million and has plans to match that figure in the second half of the year

Founding director rides out of Camelot

By JON ASHWORTH

CAMELOT, the National Lottery operator, embarked on a damage-limitation exercise yesterday after the surprise decision to quit of David Rigg, one of the consortium's founding directors.

Mr Rigg, 50, who became the televised face of Camelot, is to step down as director of communications in October, taking with him £80,000 in a long-term bonus. He was at the forefront of the recent row with Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, which came close to forcing the resignation of the Camelot board.

Camelot sources said Mr Rigg had been considering a move for the past two years. He had the choice of either seeing Camelot through its bid for the next lottery licence, up for renewal in September 2001, or taking on a new challenge. He has received

sad because David and I have been close friends, and we've worked very closely together, but people move on in their careers. Camelot is quite a narrow, focused company, and you either go at that point, or you don't."

There are no immediate plans to replace Mr Rigg. Commenting on the Camelot pay row, Mr Rigg conceded that it would have been better to declare bonuses upfront, but added: "At the time, in 1993, we thought we were doing the right thing. Pay-capping hadn't become a political issue."

Educated at Millfield, Mr Rigg spent years as a banknote salesman, surviving stray bullets in Ethiopia, and being imprisoned briefly in Libya for possessing a copy of *Time* magazine. Married, with three children, he lives in south west London.

Tim Holley, Camelot's chief executive, said he was saddened that Mr Rigg was leaving, but understood his reasons. He said: "I'm very

grateful to David and I have been close friends, and we've worked very closely together, but people move on in their careers. Camelot is quite a narrow, focused company, and you either go at that point, or you don't."

Mr Reed's remarks have come as a blow to the tobacco industry, and constitute the clearest indication to date that the industry will face stiff opposition from the White House over the forthcoming ratification of the proposed settlement.

A major source of presidential disquiet, according to Mr Reed, are the penalties to be levied if the industry fails to induce a reduction of 60 per cent in teenage smoking within ten years.

These penalties — \$1.5 billion for each percentage point by which the industry falls short of the target — need to be strengthened, according to Mr Reed.

He added: "There is some question as to whether those penalties should be tax deductible, as they are in the proposed settlement, but we think we can come up with a very tough agreement."

The agency, he said, was central to our ability to reduce smoking and reduce nicotine addiction over time".

JOHN CHARCOL.

Today offer a mathematical breakthrough of our own:
a mortgage of just 6.99% (7.3% APR) fixed until

1/6/2001.

Female American executives should blow an air kiss in the direction of Marjorie Scardino. The disastrous reign of Ann Iverson at Laura Ashley has been wrecking the reputation of the breed; but yesterday the dynamic Mrs Scardino went a long way to restoring the group image.

Pearson's figures were better than most had expected but more important was what the chief executive had to say about her plans. Investors do not have to be American to approve of motherhood and apple pie, and they relished the commonsense which Mrs Scardino had to offer.

Her recognition that stock market value is an important measure was destined to go down well with shareholders. Similarly, her assertion that Pearson has some good businesses which could do even better.

Coming from a company which not so long ago spent a fortune on buying a rotten business, in Minicase, and then discovered at Penguin the sort of multi-million black hole more regularly associated with investment banking, this was comforting news. Spoken with the easy confidence that is Mrs Scardino's style, it was doubly effective.

What is now clear is that there is a change of culture at Pearson. The combination of

Scardino shows the American way



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Dennis Stevenson as chairman and Mrs Scardino as chief executive leaves the double act of Lord Blakesham and Frank Barlow looking as dated as Morecambe and Wise, and far less likely to appeal to a modern audience.

The cerebral Stevenson, whose thoughts on business strategy came accompanied by a very hefty bill when he was running the SRU consultancy, is the perfect partner for Mrs Scardino's energetic people motivator.

Together, they have already wrought tremendous change at Pearson, bringing in new managerial talent to many of the divisions, with more appointments still to come.

Managing creative people is its own challenge and eventually it may be that Pearson has to redefine the role of Greg Dyke, the colourful head of its television business. But television remains, sensibly, a part of Pearson's long-term future.

Yet there should be some structural changes to come within the group and by the end of the year it is likely that some of these will become apparent.

There is little point in hoisting up for sale signs or spelling out what is on the list of potential acquisitions if you intend to deal at the best price. Mrs Scardino's aim is to build Pearson's presence in those areas where it is already strong, not change the entire recipe.

Mrs Iverson would do well to take note of this philosophy.

Conversion on the road to St Paul's

Heaven be praised. It seems that there may soon be positive news about Paternoster Square, the bleak and windswept monstrosity that abuts St Paul's Cathedral. Most City folk have almost given up hope of redevelopment ever rescuing the site, blighted as it has been by the misguided

interventions of the Prince of Wales. But the architects are now at work putting the finishing touches to a scheme which they intend to submit to the City planning by the end of the summer.

Mitsubishi, which has already paid far more than it should have for the site, is now keen to move ahead, encouraged not a little by the buoyant property market and demand for large scale office properties.

Having abandoned the chocolate box scheme approved of by HRH, it has been working on producing something that might appeal to those who work in the City.

By the end of last month, that design had been paraded for approval by the dignitaries of English Heritage and the Royal Fine Art Commission, whose nit-picking is now being incorporated into the scheme. Only the Dean and Chapter of St

Paul's remain to be formally consulted, and after being in such a miserable shadow for so long, the likelihood is that they will not raise any major objections to the proposals for what will be one of the largest projects to go ahead in the Square Mile.

Earlier designs had incorporated a massive 750,000 sq ft of office and retail space and economics will determine that the latest is not far short of that.

Its involvement in Paternoster Square is thought to have cost Mitsubishi at least £200 million so far, and the company is certainly not going to publicly hazard a guess on the redevelopment costs. However, its new plan for six separate office buildings has the advantage of each being able to be put up and funded individually.

I do not doubt that grovelling messengers have been running

back and forth to Highgrove to try to win Prince Charles's blessing for the new scheme. They should save the petro money. Paternoster Square is too important a site to be at the mercy of interfering amateur architects.

Sterling becomes a sideshow

Thank goodness, there is still no absolute certainty about the conclusions the Bank of England's monetary policy committee will reveal in time for lunch on Thursday. The betting remains that base rates will reach 7 per cent. The foreign exchanges assume that, even if dealers claim convincingly that a month's delay would make no difference to sterling.

The UK conflict between managing consumer demand and destroying exports is in danger of becoming a sideshow. Elsewhere, more dangerous imbalances are building up. The dollar, whose strength until recently waxed and waned with the

likelihood of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates, is now bombing ahead even though rates are thought to be on hold. Dollar fans are buying dollar assets, especially government debt, driving down longer rates even more to take advantage of supposedly strong but inflation-free economic growth.

Marks and spuds are looking ever weaker by contrast. The Bundesbank at least is worried, because the mark is a symbol for the effete euro now expected to move on to the world stage in 1999. The Buba may have had enough and signal that the markets can raise repo rates.

That is irrelevant to Europe's needs, but the further these trends overshoot, the more likely they are to rebound on us all with a nasty disruptive bang.

Bonus number

FOR A communications director, David Rigg gave a poor performance yesterday as he tried to explain his decision to leave Camelot and the level of salary not normally associated with such a role. He claims to have no job planned, but don't be surprised if he lands up back at De La Rue. It would be a poor show if the shareholders in the Lottery operator did not safeguard the careers and salaries of those who have taken the flak at Camelot.

Industrial action and strong pound dent BA

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE industrial action that wreaked havoc on thousands of British Airways flights last month will wipe £125 million from the company's profits in the first half of this year.

The bill from the three-day strike by cabin crew and delays in returning services to normal is expected to hit second-quarter profits by £10 million.

However, the mere threat of action was enough to wipe £15 million from the airline's first-quarter figures as customers moved bookings to other carriers and BA was forced to instigate contingency plans.

Andrew Murray, spokesman for the Transport and General Workers' Union, described the £125 million cost of the strike as "a very costly exercise in industrial relations" that had stemmed from BA's refusal to negotiate on changes to working practices.

BA's operating profits in the three months to June 30 dived £5 million to £140 million largely because of a £77 million "hit" arising from the strength of sterling against such currencies as the mark, the franc and the yen.

Bob Ayling, chief executive, said that if the situation persisted, the total cost for the



Bob Ayling remains hopeful on BA-American link

year could exceed £200 million. City analysts expressed surprise at the extent of the impact both of sterling and the industrial dispute and shares in BA shed 30p to finish at 610p, a drop of 5 per cent. A

£130 million profit from the sale of the airline's holding in US Airways meant headline pre-tax profits increased 46.7 per cent to £200 million in the first quarter on turnover 5.4 per cent better at £2.2 billion.

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City diary, page 27

Shares deal lifts Oxford Molecular

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Oxford Molecular rose 3½ p, to 268½ p, after the pharmaceuticals group announced that an additional £2 million cash had been invested in Cambridge Combinatorial in return for non-redeemable preference shares.

Oxford also revealed a reduction in pre-tax losses, from £950,000 to £677,000, in the six months to end June. Losses per share fell from 1.7p to 1.1p. Sales rose 42 per cent to £6.17 million, while research and development spending rose to £2.2 million from £928,000.

Dr Tony Marchington, chief executive of Oxford, said: "These results have surpassed our expectations and continue the consistent improvement demonstrated since flotation in 1994."

By PAUL DURMAN

Syndicate's losses under scrutiny by Lloyd's

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Lloyd's of London insurance market has revealed that its regulatory division is investigating multimillion pound losses arising from Syndicate 65 three years ago.

Lloyd's is holding discussions with Archer, the management company behind the syndicate, and several institutional shareholders, including New London Capital, Angerstein and LIMIT. A spokesman said that Lloyd's was concerned to settle the matter quickly and out of court as the case stood out badly in a year in which the long-running conflict with names had begun to be resolved.

The statement came as New London Capital, an investment trust investing in Lloyd's syndicates, revealed worse-than-expected final results. NLC, the largest investor in the syndicate, said it lost £4.2 million from syndicate 65 in 1994 and was making £2.3 million of provisions to cover forecast losses in 1995 and 1996. Its reduced pre-tax profits of £6.53 million gave it a return on capital of 6.2 per cent compared with a sector average return of 8.9 per cent.

In a statement, Bruce Schnitzer, chairman, said the closing of the syndicate's 1993 account had been incorrect. NLC had been exposed to £2.8 million of losses in which it was not involved, he said.

A source close to Archer denied that there was anything wrong with the accounts. The losses came from underwriting of professional indemnity policies.

Richard Cole, NLC director, will resign at the annual meeting as the company investigates its investment in the syndicate.

Shire pays £113m for US network

By PAUL DURMAN

SHIRE Pharmaceuticals, the Andover company that joined the stock market 18 months ago, is making its second large US acquisition this year with Richwood Pharmaceuticals Company for an initial \$185.7 million (£113.3 million).

Rolf Stabel, Shire's chief executive, said Richwood would give the group a US distribution network for its existing drugs. Richwood claims to have a 7 per cent share of the \$450 million market in treating hyperactive children, which is currently dominated by Medeva and methylphenidate, its drug.

The purchase, which will be largely funded by an \$89.9 million share issue, follows Shire's earlier acquisition of

Pharmavene, a drug delivery specialist for which it agreed to pay up to £104 million.

Dr Stabel said Richwood was the most attractive of the 200 possible acquisitions suggested by Shire's US advisers.

Its 65 salespeople would give Shire access to 34 per cent of the world's healthcare market, up from the existing 4 per cent.

Richwood made a pre-tax profit of \$1.7 million last year on sales of \$15.3 million. For the first half of this year, it has made pre-tax profits of at least \$7.5 million on sales of at least \$18 million. Sales are rising rapidly because of last year's launch of Adderall, its hyperactivity treatment.

Tempus, page 26

London cab drivers in line for £3,500

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

IN ANOTHER twist in the Country Casuals saga, the designer and retailer of women's clothing yesterday revealed that it has spurned all its remaining suitors.

The company, which in June said it had ended takeover talks with Mark Bunce, its former chief executive, said that talks with other potential buyers have now ended.

Another former chief executive, John Shannon, attempted a bid for the company in 1995.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, said that in spite of the difficulties experienced by the airline the outlook remained positive.

He added: "The external environment still generally favours growth in international traffic with strong economic growth in the UK and the USA accompanied by the start of a recovery in the principal market of continental Europe."

Sir Colin said that the company was still on track with the business efficiency programme that launched last summer and would deliver at least £200 million of savings in the current year. The aim is to increase savings to £1 billion a year by 2000.

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City diary, page 27

Country Casuals spurns suitors to go it alone

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Christina resigned from the board in May when they proposed to buy the company. A formal bid never materialised, and they left the company's employment at the end of June, Mr Adam said. They have both received pay-offs, believed to be less than one year's salary.

Country Casuals now has only three board members. Andrew Mills-Baker stepped up from finance director to be chief executive, while Mr Adams is non-executive chairman. Ian Peacock is the other non-executive director. First-half same-store sales were up 8 per cent, the company said.

Tempus, page 26



1997 Interim Results

Comment by Sir William Purves,
HSBC Group Chairman

"I am pleased to report that in the first half of 1997 HSBC Holdings continued to generate a strong return on shareholders' funds, producing attributable profit of £1,757 million, 11 per cent ahead of the comparable figure in 1996, despite the adverse exchange rate translation impact of stronger sterling. Our capital strength enabled us to make major investments while maintaining dividend growth."

"Our Board of Directors has declared a first interim dividend of 20 pence per share, an increase of 33 per cent compared with 15 pence declared in 1996."

"Operating profit rose by 19 per cent to £2,402 million mainly as a result of asset growth in Asia, the United Kingdom and North America which more than compensated for the pressure on lending margins. Credit quality remained high and cost discipline was maintained."

"We believe that the investments made in the first half of 1997, many of which were explained in our 1996 Annual Report and Accounts, will broaden the Group's platform for growth into the next century."

"The smooth transition of Hong Kong to a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China at midnight on 30 June was an important milestone. Our confidence remains high in the economic strength of the Hong Kong SAR, in its role as a financial centre and in our position within the Hong Kong financial community."

"I am confident that our committed employees, capital strength, continuing technological development and cost vigilance will enable us to meet the challenges of increasing competition and very rapid changes in our markets and turn these into benefits for our customers and shareholders around the world."

First half 1997 over first half 1996

- Pre-tax profit up 13% and attributable profit up 11%
- Pre-tax profit up 21% and attributable profit up 19% in Hong Kong dollars
- Earnings per share up 10%
- Dividends per share up 33%
- Total capital ratio 14.2% and tier 1 capital ratio 9.4%

The 1997 Interim Report will be sent to shareholders on Friday, 15 August 1997 and copies may be obtained from Group Public Affairs at the address below.

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Web: www.hsbcgroup.com

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bid talk renews interest in Reckitt & Colman

CITY bears of Reckitt & Colman yesterday caught the sort of cold for which its Lemsip common potion might sometimes come in handy.

While the rest of the equity market was on the slide, shares in the household products group were hitting new highs with a rise of 20 p to 985 p as almost one million shares changed hands in a thin market.

Once again the talk is of a possible bid by Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, which is already sitting on a cash pile of £5 billion after the recent sale of its specialty chemicals business to ICI.

Unilever is known to be on the lookout for suitable acquisitions and Reckitt would certainly fit the bill with a strong portfolio of household names such as Diprox, Dettol, Mr Sheen and Harpic. Carrying a price tag of just £4 billion, Reckitt, which is headed by Alan Dalby, chairman, and Vernon Sankey, chief executive, certainly looks vulnerable to the likes of Unilever, which closed yesterday 17 p dearer at £18.38 p where it is valued at £14.9 billion.

Elsewhere, turnover slowed to a trickle with fewer than 600 million shares changing hands — the lowest volume for some months. Investors were in no mood to open fresh positions. They want to see whether the Bank of England pushes up interest rates again this week, for the fourth time in as many months. Also, the holiday season has left empty desks in the Square Mile.

Underpinned by some better-than-expected trading news, the market was able to claw back early losses that were a hangover from Friday's non-farm payroll numbers. The FTSE 100 index, down 25.3 earlier, closed just 3.6 off at 4,895.7.

There was a warm response to half-year figures at the top end of expectations from HSBC as the price surged 44 p to a high of £22.38. The increase of one-third in the interim payout also pleased the City. It follows on from a strong performance last week by Lloyds TSB, down 26 p at 730 p, which lifted its payout 26 per cent and set the pace for the rest of the bank dividend reporting season. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull and Lehman Brothers have since set a target price for Lloyds of 900 p. Elsewhere in



Alan Dalby, left, and Vernon Sankey, of Reckitt & Colman, 20 p higher, looking vulnerable to the likes of Unilever.

the banking sector, there was selective support for NatWest Group, up 10 p to 870 p, reporting later today, and Standard Chartered, 8 p better at 101.01 p, which reports tomorrow.

British Airways fell 30 p to 610 p as brokers began the task of downgrading their profit estimates for the full year in the wake of first-quarter num-

bers that failed to live up to expectations. The cabin staff dispute could cost the group up to £125 million in the first six months, while the strong pound will also take a toll.

Some upbeat comments from Marjorie Scardino, chief executive, lifted Pearson 26 p to 692 p. She has set out to double the media group's value during the next

Television was floated in London in November 1994, at 182 p, but has failed to live up to expectations due to intense competition.

The breakdown in bid talks left Country Casuals 20 p lower at 113 p. The group now intends to develop its core business.

Selective buying drove up Plantation & General 6 p to 96 p after Friday's 80 p share offer from Rovida, the public vehicle of Nicholas Roditi, regarded as Britain's highest paid businessman. The offer has prompted a boardroom reshuffle.

AIM-listed Surrey Free Insns slipped 5 p to 469 p after Regent Insns sold its entire holding of 793,125 shares at 465 p. The disposal netted Regent up 13 p to 278 p, a profit of £1.55 million over book value.

□ GIILT-EDGED: Prices drifted in thin trading for much of the day, with investors anxiously awaiting the conclusion of the Bank of England independent economic committee.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt fell 14 p to £114.32 as the total number of contracts reached 50,000.

In bonds, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished £111.32 lower at £111.12, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks easier at £102.12.

□ XMAS XK: Shares recouped some early losses and technology stocks added to slender gains. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 15.10 points to 178.94.

Nigel Hawkins who covers the water companies for

Yamaichi says there is scope for profit-taking. "They have done well in the past few days, what with the outcome on the windfall tax. But last week's referral of Pacific Corp's bid for Energy Group appears to have doused takeover hopes among the water and electricity companies".

He says it now seems unlikely that the Government will permit water companies to bid for each other. "Bids will have to come from outside the sector, or from abroad".

He is still a buyer of Wesse and Severn Trent.

THE water companies were under a cloud, with Anglian dropping 17 p to 771 p, Hyder 17 p to 841 p, Severn Trent 13 p to 129 p, South West 12 p to 759 p, Thames 9 p to 776 p, United Utilities 10 p to 693 p, Wesser 16 p to 462 p, and Yorkshire 7 p to 427 p.

Only last week Société Générale Strauss Turnbull turned cautious of the sector and yesterday HSBC James Capel downgraded its recommendation for United Utilities and Westex to a "sell".

Nigel Hawkins who cov-

ers the water companies for

Spencer Dane

BID HOPES DOWSED

Source: Datastream

FTSE all-share Index (rebased)

Water companies Index

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

2000 2200 2100 2000 1800 1600 1400 1200 1000 800 600 400 200 0

3000 2800 2600 2400 2200 2000 1800 1600 1400 1200 1000 800 600 400 200 0

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Western supermarkets chase Eastern promise

Sarah Cunningham reports on British grocery chains that are aiming for a profitable presence in South East Asian markets

The steady stream of Western supermarket groups breaking into South East Asia and China is threatening to turn into a flood. Many of Europe's largest supermarket chains have opened stores there and others are on their way. Tesco is the first British chain to start looking to the region.

Tesco sent Michael Fleming, its business development director, to Hong Kong last month to look for potential partners in the region. According to Tony MacNeary, food retailing analyst at NatWest Markets, governments in the region are trying to push up food hygiene standards by encouraging the spread of supermarkets. This is seen as an open invitation to European supermarket groups whose growth prospects at home are restricted by planning laws.

Although in the long term the supermarket will be a threat to the traditional grocery outlets where most people buy food in Asia, there is a long way to go: supermarkets provide less than 5 per cent of the food sold in South East Asia, compared with about 65 per cent in the UK.

Carrefour, the French hypermarket group and one of the most globally-minded food retailers, is in several South East Asian markets as is Makro, the Dutch cash & carry company. Ahold, the Dutch supermarket operator, has opened about 70 stores in the past two years in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Shanghai.

Another French group, Casino, is looking to open in Taiwan, while Delhaize, the Belgian group, plans to open up in Asia.

In Tesco's case, if Mr Fleming likes what he finds and moves as fast as Ahold did, the first joint venture agreement could be signed within months. Tesco is cagey about its plans but analysts believe it must be looking seriously at entering China rather than concentrating on Hong Kong, which is well served by grocers. Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines are also likely to figure in their calculations, while Vietnam could

also end up with a Tesco presence. Tesco's strategy is certain to differ from that of Marks & Spencer, which has opened many stores in Asia but does not sell food in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, and sells relatively little in Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Among other foreign operators in the region, Japan's Jusco has a presence but sells mainly to expatriate Japanese. American companies are noticeable by their absence. Of all the companies already there, the one that Tesco is most likely to try to emulate in Asia is Ahold.

Going by the Ahold experience, Tesco will find that moving into Asia, like moving into Eastern Europe, will mean a long wait for profits. Stewart Brown, director of investor relations at Ahold, said that the company, which opened its first stores in the region at the beginning of last year and expects turnover this year of up to £700 million, does not expect to break even there until 2000. Ahold is currently working on getting the right format: "Consumers want very fresh food; fresh meat means meat that has been killed that morning. They also like low-key selling."

Mr MacNeary does not expect other British grocers to make a push into Asia just yet: Asda and Sainsbury are probably too small while J Sainsbury is busy in the US. But for Tesco he can see the logic: "It is taking a very long-term view."

BUSINESS LETTERS

The simple message is don't wait for mutuals to disappear

From the Chief Executive, Market Harborough Building Society

Sir, The economic principles of the so-called mutual v plc debate have been well-rehearsed. But the mutuality debate is not simply an esoteric one about economic principles. It's about real people, real jobs, real investment in the community and that gives mutuals a social and a political dimension.

Claims that we live in an amoral age appear to be well founded if my latest experience as chief executive of a small building society is anything to go by. During the last few weeks I have witnessed nearly 1,000 accounts being opened by people seeking to plunder the society's capital accumulated since 1870 by our well-intentioned forebears.

So what can be done? The Building Societies Act 1997, introduced by the last Tory Government, created many welcome freedoms for societies. But there are sanctions that could be suspended or amended which would help. A moratorium suspending conversions may be an answer, or an alteration to the length of time to qualify for a windfall from two years to five years, or perhaps a re-introduction of deposit accounts to create an alternative to the shareholding number. Whichever of these, or perhaps more radical solutions I haven't thought of, it doesn't matter.

What does matter is that there is a political will to support the principle of mutuality and to avert the disastrous social and economic consequences of a substantial reduction in the mutual building society sector.

Political parties of all persuasions agree that competition through a mix of personal financial service providers is desirable. What they — and the rest of us — must do can be summarised in one simple message.

Don't wait for the mutuals to disappear before you support them.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP R. DEARING,
Chief Executive,
Market Harborough
Building Society,
Welland House,
The Square,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.

Sense needed to reverse ruinous rates

From Mr A. Hamer

(religiously following DM) 32.31 per cent since April 1996. A drop of virtually one third, not one quarter, in such a short period of time, takes away all hope of talking practical steps to cope.

I am sure (but not reported) that a huge number of companies and individuals are literally gasping for breath before failing, unless some action is taken quickly to halt the pound's rise.

Yours sincerely,
A. HAMER,
Castle Lane House,
Castle Lane,
Warwick,
Warwickshire.

UP YOUR INTEREST RATE

property n. Brit. 1 leaf tea served from a silver pot (usu. *Earl Grey, English Breakfast* etc.) 2 something owned; a possession, esp. real estate.

leasehold n. & adj. 1 judo grip in which an opponent is partly restrained (half lease) or completely restrained (full lease) 2 the holding of property.

tenants n. 1 mythical insects reputed to have the strength of several men 2 a gathering of your uncles' wives (best avoided) 3 persons holding real property by private ownership.

key money n. 1 the cost of harbouring one's yacht 2 expenses incurred in changing locks (usu. after burglary) 3 premium paid by an incoming tenant for premises.

estate n. 1 large four wheeled container for children, dogs, green wellies etc (usu. *Volvo, Merc* etc) 2 person's collective assets and liabilities 3 landed property.

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Why the days of the high street bank manager are numbered

Virgin's threat to take on the clearers could alter banking. Caroline Merrell says

The days of Captain Mainwaring, the power-crazed self-important bank manager star of the hit series *Dad's Army* may well be over. The announcement this week that Richard Branson's Virgin Group intended to try to take on the clearers by offering a bank through its financial services division, Virgin Direct, could be the final nail in the coffin for traditional branch-based retail banking.

Ronan Gormley, Virgin Direct managing director, said the company has lined up \$400 million from Australian Mutual Provident (AMP), its backer, to provide funds for continued expansion — banking services are under consideration.

Mr Gormley said: "Many have been put off changing banks because it is a gear deal of hassle. However, we believe that there is increasing unhappiness among consumers." Virgin Direct said it could be ready to launch its bank by the end of the year.

With the UK's high street banks announcing record profits this year, thousands of dissatisfied customers must be wondering whether any of the banks' billions will be spent on offering better services, higher savings rates and lower mortgage rates. Already the perception of bank customers has changed from the days when they entered the marble halls with awe and considered an appointment with the bank manager to be an honour. The banks now look like any other high street retail outlet and many bank account holders have not visited their branch in years. Customer dissatisfaction is high, according to the Banking Ombudsman, the number of complaints against banks is on the increase, although they are down on their peak in 1992.

Which?, the magazine for the Consumers' Association, is also critical of the high street banks and building societies. According to a recent survey, going overdrawn with one of the top eight banks and building societies by £10 a month for the past five years would



Captain Mainwaring, the power-crazed self-important bank manager of *Dad's Army*, left, with Sergeant Wilson

have cost on average £223. The traditional banks, such as NatWest, would have charged a massive £513, while the smaller building societies, such as the National, would have charged about £33.

Customer unhappiness about bank services and opening hours has contributed to the success of the new breed of telephone banks such as First Direct, part of Midland. Other recent entrants into the telephone banking arena include the supermarkets, such as Tesco, Safeway and Sainsbury's, and the insurance companies, such as Prudential and Scottish Widows. Standard Life is also expected to launch a bank this year. Sainsbury's

Bank has already attracted 350,000 customers with a total of £600 million. The customers have been attracted by the high rates of interest on offer. The interest on the supermarket bank's instant access account at 6.15 per cent, is nearly double that offered by other banks, where an average balance of £3,000 would pay a rate of 3 per cent.

Telephone banking has already begun to have a big impact on the numbers of branches. As well as being more convenient for customers, who may find it difficult to find the time to get in to a bank, or who may prefer to handle their banking affairs outside office hours, telephone-based trans-

actions are also much cheaper for the bank to offer. According to Booz Allen & Hamilton, the firm of market consultants, the cost to the bank of a transaction through a branch is double that of one via the telephone.

The cheapness of telephone banking has contributed to the huge number of branch closures in recent years. Figures from the British Bankers' Association show that over the past ten years the number of bank and building society branches have shrunk by 6,000 from a peak of 21,000, a drop of nearly 30 per cent. Over the past ten years the number of people employed by banks has fallen nearly 10 per cent to 274,000. Analysts believe that this trend

will continue, especially if new entrants such as Virgin and Sainsbury's are able to offer better savings rates.

The story of Alliance & Leicester retail bank is typical of many of the telephone banks. A&L Giro pioneered telephone banking in the mid-Seventies, with an office of 12 staff in Liverpool. Initially the telephone banking operation was simple, customers who worked unusual office hours, or who did not have the chance to get to bank could phone up to get details of their balances. Now A&L Giro offers a full range of banking services to its 1.6 million customers. An Alliance & Leicester spokesman said that its customers made more

than one million calls a month. "The calls are manned on a 24-hour basis. Many people phone up with basic calls about their finances and then move on to discuss their affairs in more detail." He said the calls tended to be grouped towards the end of the month, as customers made adjustments to their accounts to ensure that they did not become overdrawn.

Telephone banking moved into the mass market with the launch of First Direct, six years ago. First Direct is part of Midland Bank, whose parent, HSBC Holdings, announced record half-year profits yesterday. First Direct boasts 755,000 customers and is attracting new accounts at a rate of 12,500 a month. A First Direct spokeswoman said two-thirds of its new customers came from the existing banks and building societies and were attracted by the convenience offered by telephone banking.

First Direct's contribution to Midland's £829 million profit was not disclosed yesterday. However, the bank did admit that it had put more money into its telephone banking operations by opening up a new call centre in Hamilton, central Scotland. Entering the telephone banking market does come at a price. Analysts believe that First Direct only became profitable for the bank after five years. Sainsbury's Bank, which after all, does not offer overdraft facilities, or personal loans, is expected to cost about £30 million to set up.

Direct Line, which pioneered selling motor insurance over the phone, has had significantly less success with its banking services as it, like Sainsbury's, does not offer overdraft facilities, or personal loans, is expected to cost about £30 million to set up.

The other high street clearers tend to offer telephone banking in addition to their branch service. Lloyds inherited TSB's telephone banking operations when it took over TSB. Lloyds believes that there is a market for both branch and telephone banking.

With so many new players entering the banking market, all of which are willing to throw millions of pounds into the business of banking in order to make an impact, Mr Branson and Virgin Direct's co-backers AMP must be prepared to have very deep pockets if they are to emulate Virgin Direct's success in the selling of personal equity plans to the mass market.

CHRIS AYRES

Third of small firms 'overcharged'

HIGH STREET banks are overcharging as many as one in three small businesses by electronically putting crippling rates of interest on their overdrafts by default.

Evidence from the National Association of Bank Customers and Bancalco, which has reclaimed more than £4 million in excess charges, shows

automatically charge them a punitive 29 per cent rate.

Experts have also discovered that it is almost impossible for small businesses to work out if they have been overcharged because banks often print the wrong balance on monthly statements.

Stuart Cliffe, of the National Association of Bank Customers, said: "The balance which is shown on your account is not the cleared balance in your

bank account. But it's the cleared balance that your interest charges are made on."

The findings will call into question the 12-point code of practice drawn up by the British Bankers' Association last month to improve the working relationship between banks and small businesses.

The Federation of Small Businesses believes the problem of overcharging can be solved only by bank manag-

ers building up long-term relationships with customers, and by small companies making written interest rate agreements with their banks.

David Gold, chief executive of Bancalco, said: "We estimate that up to one in three small business are being overcharged. It is not unusual for a company to lose between £10,000 and £15,000."

CHRIS AYRES

Moved to tears

MARJORIE SCARDINO, chief executive of Pearson, cannot be accused of shirking in the six months since she signed up with the group, whose interests range from Madame Tussaud's to the *Financial Times*.

In 124 days (not counting weekends), she claims to have endured 852 hours of meetings, travelled to 24 offices in five countries, read 20,000 pieces of paper (she was counting), written 10,000 pieces of paper, given

46 presentations to shareholders, analysts, journalists and staff, and spent "far too much time" with bankers and lawyers.

Scardino has received photographs from the staff of Pearson's Australian office, been sent baseball caps from an unknown source, and muscled in on a meeting in New York, where she collected a sweatshirt, and "a pair of eyeballs that popped out of my head." Intriguingly, she has laughed about 1,000 times, and "had the urge to cry once".

What was it that moved her to tears? Could it have been news of the loss of Ray Snoddy, media guru, at the *FT* and soon to join this newspaper? Whatever, unveiling Pearson's results yesterday, she felt moved to cite Snoddy as an example of how Pearson assets could be used across the company, as in Snoddy "online". Tears indeed.

Change of crew

THE ship Barclay de Zoete Wedd (BZW) has plucked a couple of castaways from the rat-infested waters of the Thames: Naguib Kheraj, one-time chief financial officer (Europe) for Salomon Brothers, has been made chief administrative officer. Nick Kelly, formerly with UBS

and JP Morgan, joins as human resources director. Bailing out in the nick of time, meanwhile, is Khalid Rahim, who has quit as managing director of corporate finance at BZW after 11 years with the firm to join Forman Hardy Holdings as chief executive. Rahim advised the Forman Hardy family when it sold the *Nottingham Evening Post* to the Daily Mail group for £93 million.

Elsewhere, the Titanic-like bulk, NatWest Markets, has shed Nick Riley, former chief administrative officer of global financial markets. Riley is joining Credit Suisse First Boston in London as managing director and head of European Operations. He is on gardening leave at present.

Off to the wilds

POOR old BG, nee British Gas. It had to eat much humble pie several weeks ago when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission backed Clare Spottiswoode's pricing plans. Now, staff in the corporate office, the palatial Adelphi just off the Strand, replete with river views, have had to pack their bags and decamp to the wilds of Berkshire.

Hardly in the fast lane, BG's new corporate offices are now in Thames Valley Park Drive. But not all of BG's staff will make the drive westwards. Richard Giordano, whose contract entitles him to an office and secretary after his retirement, will remain London based. He, along with chief executive David Varney and deputy chairman Philip Rogerson, will move to an altogether more downtown location in offices in Jermyn Street, Piccadilly.

Although the trio will also have offices in the Reading outpost they will spend most of their time in London with a small pocket of other staff.

■ COMPETITION between Tory and Labour MPs to be the first with a "paperless" office has proved a boon for Ted Clark, head of DPA-Egami, the OFEX-listed developer of electronic document management systems. A mailshot to the House of Commons has already snared two

victims — Sir Paul Beresford, Conservative MP for Mole Valley in Surrey, and George Turner, Labour MP for Norfolk North West. Sir Paul, a favourite of Baroness Thatcher in his days as leader of Wandsworth Council in southwest London, needs the system to cope with the 17,000 letters he receives each year from his constituents. Dr Turner has greater ambitions. Former head of electronics at the University of East Anglia, he sees the system as a first step towards a "paperless" Parliament.

JON ASHWORTH

Richard Giordano is moving to an altogether more downtown location in Jermyn Street



This is your financial director speaking — we may experience some turbulence!

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Equities mark time

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375 presented. No significant data. Components in liquid are constituents of the 77% 100 bodies.

A brush with fate in the North

Veronica Heath meets a couple who turned a disaster into a winner

Tim Wells, a Connecticut marine artist, won acclaim 12 years ago when he staged a one-man show in New York. He and his wife, Hilary, were at that time living temporarily in Hampshire, but, encouraged by this success, they decided to sell up and return to America. The pound plummeted against the dollar and devoured their savings just as they were due to leave.

"What seemed to us disaster at the time turned out to be fortuitous," said Tim. "It changed our lives. We decided to look north, where property might be cheaper, for somewhere to live."

They bought a derelict vicarage in a Northumberland village and launched weekend and five-day painting holidays for beginners to accomplished artists. From spring until late autumn, their courses are now fully booked and, for the past five years, they have been taking small groups to Europe in their minibus for painting weeks during late summer and early autumn.

Mrs Wells is an accomplished cook and trained in hotel management before she married Tim. Their vicarage is a Grade II listed building with an acre of garden that is a painter's paradise. "Our guests come on our courses as a form of escapism," she said. "They appreciate the lack of distractions which you get in your own home when you are trying to paint. All

meals are provided. We take them to different locations in Northumberland to paint every day and we have a wide choice of beautiful scenarios — Hadrian's Wall country, Bamburgh Castle, Lindisfarne and the Cheviots, as well as picturesque villages. The week is a shared experience and many of our students return year after year."

The idea of running painting holiday courses grew from a visit by a local art group soon after Mr and Mrs Wells moved to Northumberland. "They seemed to enjoy the creative experience we generated and the idea for our joint business grew from then," Mrs Wells said.

Courses began at the vicarage when it became too big for their own needs because their two daughters were growing up and would soon leave home. "We restored the house and knew that we had to put it to some use and find employment for ourselves," Mrs Wells said. "We turned one room into a studio for Tim and welcomed our first painters. They loved it."

Mr Wells specialises in water-colour landscapes, but teaches in all media — watercolour, oils, pastels and acrylics. Absolutely everything is provided for the artists — chairs, easels, art materials and transport. "All the paraphernalia," he said. "All they have to bring with them is enthusiasm. Our painting holidays



Homework: Hilary and Tim Wells in the grounds of their Northumberland home and painting school

have also generated business for the locals in this village because when the house is full we farm couples out at bed and breakfast places within walking distance of our house. They spend the days and the evenings here with us. Sometimes we have couples with a non-painting partner. That isn't a problem because he or she can go for a walk or visit places of interest in the county."

Over the years, Mr Wells says, the painting venues have changed. "We don't paint on historic house premises as much as we used to

do," he said. "Entrance costs have risen steeply and I don't like passing this on to our guests. I won't take anyone to paint a landscape unless I have done it myself beforehand."

The business has been so successful that Hilary Wells now edits and publishes the *Painting Holiday Directory*. This is updated every year and sells world-wide. "Painting holidays come in all shapes and sizes and there are courses to suit all tastes," she said. "I originally approached 300 people running painting courses

with the idea of the directory and got replies from 80. Each contributed £50 and the venture took off."

Mrs Wells includes only the best in the directory. "I check each one carefully every year," she says. "If the tutor refers to his students as clients or punters instead of guests or painters, I'm on my guard. The attitude of the tutor/pupil relationship is so important. The ambience on a painting holiday counts almost as much as the skilled tuition."

Northumberland Painting courses: 01330 540319.

DEAN D'EYE, the founder of Kered Contracting, who employed his bank manager when the man was made redundant, is this year's winner of the Prince Philip Medal. This is awarded to people who



The only clear thing about it is it's more confusing!"

BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

begin their careers with City & Guilds qualifications and achieve a high profile.

Mr D'Eye, who left school at 16 and gained a City & Guilds carpentry and joinery certificate and a supplementary certificate in construction crafts before starting his south London company, received the medal from the Duke of Edinburgh. At 31, he is the award's youngest recipient.

Companies with fewer than 250 employees in creative fields, including publishing, software, filming, music and design, have been invited to apply for awards, backed by the Government, which will help them to turn their ideas

into products. The Information Society Creativity Awards, part of the Department of Trade and Industry's Information Society initiative, are being offered for the second year and have private-sector sponsorship. The names of shortlisted companies will be announced in February and the award-winners in March. Details: 0345 152000.

Lloyds Bank has launched a pack of measures to help young, fast-growing businesses. It includes financial help in return for equity in companies that would not normally qualify for a loan. A patients hotline will be introduced on September 1.

□ A free advice paper on the impact of data protection legislation on those who work from home has been produced by the Data Protection Registrar. For details, telephone the DPR office on 01625 545700.

□ The Development Board for Rural Wales created or safeguarded 1,500 jobs in the Welsh countryside during 1996-97, according to the board's annual report.

It stimulated £29.3 million of private-sector investment and completed the biggest factory construction programme for ten years. Factory sales produced £6 million of income, and more

than 60 per cent of the factories built by the board are now owned by local businesses.

□ Programme for Business, part of the Government's Information Society initiative, plans to open 30 local support centres around the country by the end of this year.

This figure is double the 50 support centres that were originally planned. The centres give practical advice and hands-on experience with new technologies.

□ Tessa Graham, a partner in Baker Tilly, the London accountancy firm, has become the only private-sector member of the Government's Access Business project. The project has been set up to coordinate regulatory information from local authorities and Whitehall.

EU initiative to stimulate the use of technology

By IOLA SMITH

INFORMATION-RELATED businesses have created 80 per cent of the new jobs that have emerged in the European Union over the past five years. However, according to the Federation of Small Businesses, up to 60 per cent of firms employing fewer than 50 staff lack access to a computer.

To get across to those businesses the message that technological awareness aids competitiveness, the European Union is establishing 22 regional demonstration programmes throughout the EU.

The first, Wales Information Society, has been launched in the Principality. Its first big project is taking place in a rural area, with Powys County Council providing 140 computers in village halls and libraries. Small businesses will be able to use them to gain information about support services such as Business Connect and export associations.

Each computer will be connected to the nearest jobcentre, linking job-seekers with businesses that want staff.

Another priority is extending telecommunications. Forty operate in rural Wales, offering access to computers, fax machines and photocopies. Fees for business users are low, about £1 an hour. Some

telecottages, such as the Talgarth centre in Powys, offer additional features, including video conferencing. This has put one small business in touch with customers in the US.

The Information Society project is to extend telecottages to urban areas, such as the South Wales valleys. As well as serving existing businesses, emphasis here will be placed on teaching computing skills to the unemployed so that they can get a job or establish a technology-related business.

The EU is investing £500,000 over 20 months in the Welsh project. David Rowe-Beddoe, the Welsh Development Agency chairman, who launched the project with Ron Davies, Secretary of State for Wales, is sure that Wales will gain from the information revolution. "Disadvantages of geography that, historically, may have hampered progress will disappear," Mr Rowe-Beddoe said.

"Distance will be no drawback to economic performance."

In the next 20 months, a further 21 European regions, including the North of England and Yorkshire and Humberside, will develop plans to promote technology. Best practice from the 22 regions will form an EU technology blueprint.



David Rowe-Beddoe says technology beats geographical drawbacks

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LAW

- JUDICIAL REFORM 35
- LAW REPORT 31



Shiji Lapite, whose widow challenged a decision not to prosecute two Metropolitan Police officers; Barbara Mills, QC, and Derek Treadaway, who won on appeal

Open a door for justice

The DPP rethinking decisions, talk of urgent inquiries
Graham Smith looks at the CPS and the police

Serious failings in procedures for bringing criminal prosecutions against police officers were exposed in the Divisional Court last month. A few days later, an embarrassed Director of Public Prosecutions, Dame Barbara Mills, announced there would be an "urgent inquiry" into the handling of serious complaints by CPS Central Casework.

Interviewed by the BBC that evening, Dame Barbara prevaricated when asked, after the death of Richard O'Brien in custody, whether she was responsible for decisions not to prosecute police officers, then responded by pondering the difference between a decision and the approval of a decision.

Last week the DPP was ordered to reconsider her decision not to prosecute police officers in a case involving allegations of a forced confession. Derek Treadaway, who spent nine years in jail for robbery and conspiracy to rob before being cleared on appeal, has always maintained that he was forced to sign a confession through violence. In a civil action for assault, he won damages, but the DPP decided against prosecution.

It is crucial to remember that decisions on prosecutions of police officers are the sole responsibility of the DPP and that those decisions, when they concern possible criminal proceedings, are made at the final stage of the police complaints process. And in the event of a decision not to prosecute, the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) has ultimate responsibility for bringing disciplinary charges against police officers.

Home Office figures show that in 1995-96 police officers in England and Wales

were convicted of criminal offences and 410 were disciplined. But only a fraction of these totals originated in complaints by members of the public. A total of 35,521 complaints was recorded in the same year, of which 749 were substantiated. Criminal proceedings were brought in ten cases and disciplinary charges in a total of 162, of which 117 were proved.

Though the apparent bias in police complaints findings has attracted public criticism, challenging the decisions of the police, DPP and PCA in the courts has proved difficult. Each institution has a high degree of autonomy and rarely has evidence been available to support litigation.

The applications for judicial review heard at the Divisional Court were exceptional in that the DPP decided not to prosecute police officers after findings in non-criminal courts that supported the allegations against them. These failures provided an opportunity for a legal challenge to the DPP.

Alison O'Brien sought to review the DPP's decision not to prosecute five Metropolitan Police officers for manslaughter after the death of Richard, her husband, Olamide Jones, the widow of Shiji Lapite, challenged a similar decision, together with the failure of the PCA to insist that the two Met officers involved in her husband's arrest face disciplinary charges. Juries in the inquests into the deaths of Mr O'Brien and Mr Lapite had returned verdicts of unlawful killing.

Mr Treadaway sought to review the DPP's decision not to prosecute four West Mid-

lands Serious Crime Squad officers for assault and for attempting to pervert the course of justice after a High Court judge had awarded him damages for assault.

These applications served as a catalyst, culminating in the exposure of apparent maladministration in CPS Central Casework. The PCA was the first to recognise the error of its ways. By letter and affidavit before the hearing, the PCA acknowledged that it had allowed itself to be persuaded



O'Brien: unlawfully killed, said jury

against recommending disciplinary charges in the Lapite case for reasons that were subsequently found to be false.

Soon after, Dame Barbara admitted to an error in law and a failure to consider properly the evidence with regard to her conclusion that Mr Lapite's death may have been accidental.

The DPP's attempt to defend her decision not to prosecute the officers involved in Mr O'Brien's arrest collapsed on the second day of the hearing. She conceded the case under

the weight of contradictory documentary evidence that precluded identification of the official responsible or the reasons for the final decision.

Notwithstanding acceptance of fault in the decision-making process in two cases, the DPP maintained the validity of the decision not to proceed against the West Midlands officers.

In attempting to account for the catastrophic turn of events, Dame Barbara explained the Lapite and O'Brien decisions as isolated incidents in a department that deals with 11,000 cases annually.

A figure for the number of police complaints considered by CPS Central Casework is not available. But it will be nowhere near that amount. Fewer than 9,000 police complaints investigations were completed in 1995-96. Chief officers are required only to forward reports to the DPP if there is an indication that a criminal offence has been committed.

These three cases were the first of their kind to be brought against the DPP and, given the statistical evidence, the flaws exposed can be taken as symptomatic of all decisions on prosecutions of police officers.

The retired circuit court judge Gerald Butler

is to head the DPP's inquiry into the handling of deaths in police and prison custody and serious allegations of assault against police officers. Inevitably, this will also require examination of the quality of information forwarded to the DPP for consideration in the form of police reports, and the working relations between the CPS and police officers.

The broader concerns of CPS management and efficiency will be addressed by a government review, due to report to the Attorney-General at the end of the year.

The British tradition of policing upholds that a police officer is subject to the rule of law the same as any other citizen. If a member of the public had behaved in the same way as the officers who arrested Lapite and O'Brien, that person would have been the subject of a criminal investigation within hours, charged within days and appeared before a public court within a year.

For police officers, the same decisions are made behind closed doors by police officers in the first instance, and then, in the CPS, by whom we know not.

• The author is conducting research at University College London into legal remedies to police misconduct.

Hong Kong fails a test of statehood

When a Hong Kong corporation sued two New York corporations recently in a New York federal court, the court had to consider whether Hong Kong was a "state" for the purpose of American law. It held that it was not, and dismissed the case, and the dismissal was affirmed by the court of appeals in a two-to-one decision. English law would have permitted the suit in an English court, assuming that jurisdictional requirements were satisfied.

Federal courts in America are courts of limited jurisdiction. Normally, cases may be brought there only when there is a claim arising under federal law. Another possibility is an action between "citizens of a state of the United States" and citizens or subjects of a foreign state". This is referred to as "alienage jurisdiction".

For jurisdictional purposes, a corporation is a "citizen" or "subject" of the governmental entity under whose sovereignty it is created.

Thus, the plaintiff Hong Kong corporation, Matimak Trading Co., based federal alienage jurisdiction on the claim that it was a citizen of Hong Kong. This triggered the judicial inquiry as to whether Hong Kong was a state, so that the claim could go forward, or whether Matimak was "stateless", so that the suit had to be dismissed.

Since the case was brought in August 1995, the American court analysed the legal status of Hong Kong as a British Crown Colony and not as it is now, a special administrative region of China. Matimak, the court reasoned, was incorporated under Hong Kong law and was entitled to the protections of that law only, even though the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance "may be ultimately traceable" to the British Crown.

In 1984, China agreed to maintain laws previously in force in Hong Kong. The effect of this "status quo" treaty presents an abiding problem for Hong Kong corporations seeking access to federal courts in the United States. China has a corporation law, effective on July 1994, that was modelled on the English Companies Act. Under the 1984 treaty, however, Hong Kong corporations such as Matimak will continue to be governed by the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance enacted under British rule rather than the Chinese corporation law, even though their corporate existence may be "ultimately traceable" to the People's Republic of China, a recognised sovereign international entity. Because a corporation is a creature of the State, the notion of a stateless corporation would seem oxymoronic. Yet, in the Matimak court's view, Hong Kong corporations are — like persons without a

country — stateless. Under the court's analysis, alienage jurisdiction would be available to a Chinese corporation organised and doing business in Beijing, but not to a Hong Kong corporation, and this applies both before and after the July 1 reversion.

The rationale of the decision is at odds with the position of the American Government. The United States has always recognised Hong Kong as a separate force in world affairs. American immigration laws accord special foreign State quota status to Hong Kong residents. In economics and trade, Hong Kong is recognised by Act of Congress as a separate legal entity. Its trade with the United States during November 1996 exceeded \$23 billion (about £14.5 billion) and direct United States investment totalled almost \$12 billion.

It is a contracting party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and thereby accorded most favoured nation status. It is a founding member of the World Trade Organisation and has acceded to the Paris Convention on Industrial Property, and the Berne, Geneva and Paris copyright conventions. American courts, moreover, have held other British Dependent Territories to be foreign States for the purpose of alienage jurisdiction.

The court's decision emphasised that the United States had never recognised Hong Kong as a free and independent sovereign and is not about to do so. This is undeniably true. The purpose of alienage jurisdiction is to avoid offence to foreign nations

because of the possible appearance of judicial inhospitality to their citizens. There is also the American interest in assuring that American citizens will, by the same token, obtain access to foreign courts. But these considerations would not appear to apply where the foreign "nation" is not deemed a "sovereign", and there is no threat of entanglement with a foreign power.

The dissenting judge in the Matimak case emphasised that "Hong Kong is a unique and critical component in the scheme of international policies and global economic expansion". The reversion of Hong Kong to China under an international agreement to have "one country, two systems" is unique in world history. If Hong Kong is to continue as a separate international trading partner distinct from the mainland, its corporations ought to have access to the courts of other countries, just as Chinese corporations have that access. The historical reason for Hong Kong's peculiar status in the world should justify some judicial flexibility.

• The author is a litigator with the New York law firm Brown & Wood.

Bias is rife, study shows

A PRIVILEGED background and blue-chip university still count when it comes to getting into the law.

The latest Law Society research, which was carried out by the Policy Studies Institute and based on about 4,000 graduates, confirms that discrimination continues in the legal profession and is widespread.

The study found that City law firms were 16 times more likely to offer a trainee place to Oxbridge students than to those from new universities. Twenty-two per cent of women and 9 per cent of ethnic minority trainees said they faced harassment or discrimination.

At the Bar, the problem was worse: 40 per cent of women and 33 per cent of ethnic minority pupils reported discrimination or harassment.

More than 60 per cent of

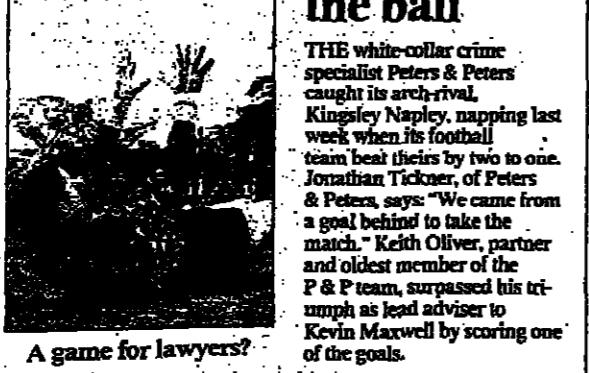
OUTS

Rules of the game

A NEW GUIDE to the laws on prostitution and the sex industry has been produced by Release, the national legal and drug advice service. *Sex Work*

Briefs on the ball

THE white-collar crime specialist Peters & Peters caught its arch-rival, Kingsley Napley, napping last week when its football team beat theirs by two to one. Jonathan Tickell of Peters & Peters says: "We came from a good position to take the match." Keith Oliver, former oldest member of the P & P team, surpassed his triumph as lead adviser to Kevin Maxwell by scoring one of the goals.



A game for lawyers?

ers and the Law, by Penny Cotton, is a comprehensive guide complete with useful contact numbers.

As the guide points out, prostitution is legal, but many of the activities surrounding it are not. A full-scale review of the law, it says, is overdue. Details: 0171-729 9904.

Computers count

ANOTHER accolade for the law firm started by two redundant solicitors four years ago with a picnic table and no technology. Rundle Walker took second prize in the Best Use of IT category of the awards run by the Lawyer magazine and Halifax Independent Advisers. In January the Exeter firm took the Society for Computers and Law award for efficient IT use. Mervyn Rundle said: "Technophobes think computerisation means the end of personal service, but our experience shows it frees you to develop real working relationships."

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Post Ref No: L0017/TD. Closing date: 18 August 1997; provisional interview date 3 September 1997.

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Fax: 0181 752 5057.

You can also see this vacancy on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/e25136.htm>

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Please contact David Bennett at In-House Legal, Grosvenor House, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS. Tel: 0121 643 1895. Fax: 0121 633 0862. Evenings/weekends: 0121 428 1150. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk

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FOLKESTONE

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD



CRICKET: STAND OF 140 SEALS ZIMBABWE'S FATE IN SECOND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

Bold Flintoff steals limelight

By JOHN STERN

SOUTHAMPTON (England) Under-19 win toss; England Under-19 beat Zimbabwe Under-19 by eight wickets

BEN HOLLIOAKE signed off as a junior international cricketer, before embarking on the next stage of his great adventure, by hitting the winning run in another embarrassing, comfortable victory for the England Under-19 team over Zimbabwe yesterday.

Hollioake, who made 59, bowled a five-over spell of fine distinction in Zimbabwe's innings, and with his captain, Andrew Flintoff, added 140 together in an unbroken partnership as England completed a 2-0 win in the series by eight wickets with more than three overs to spare.

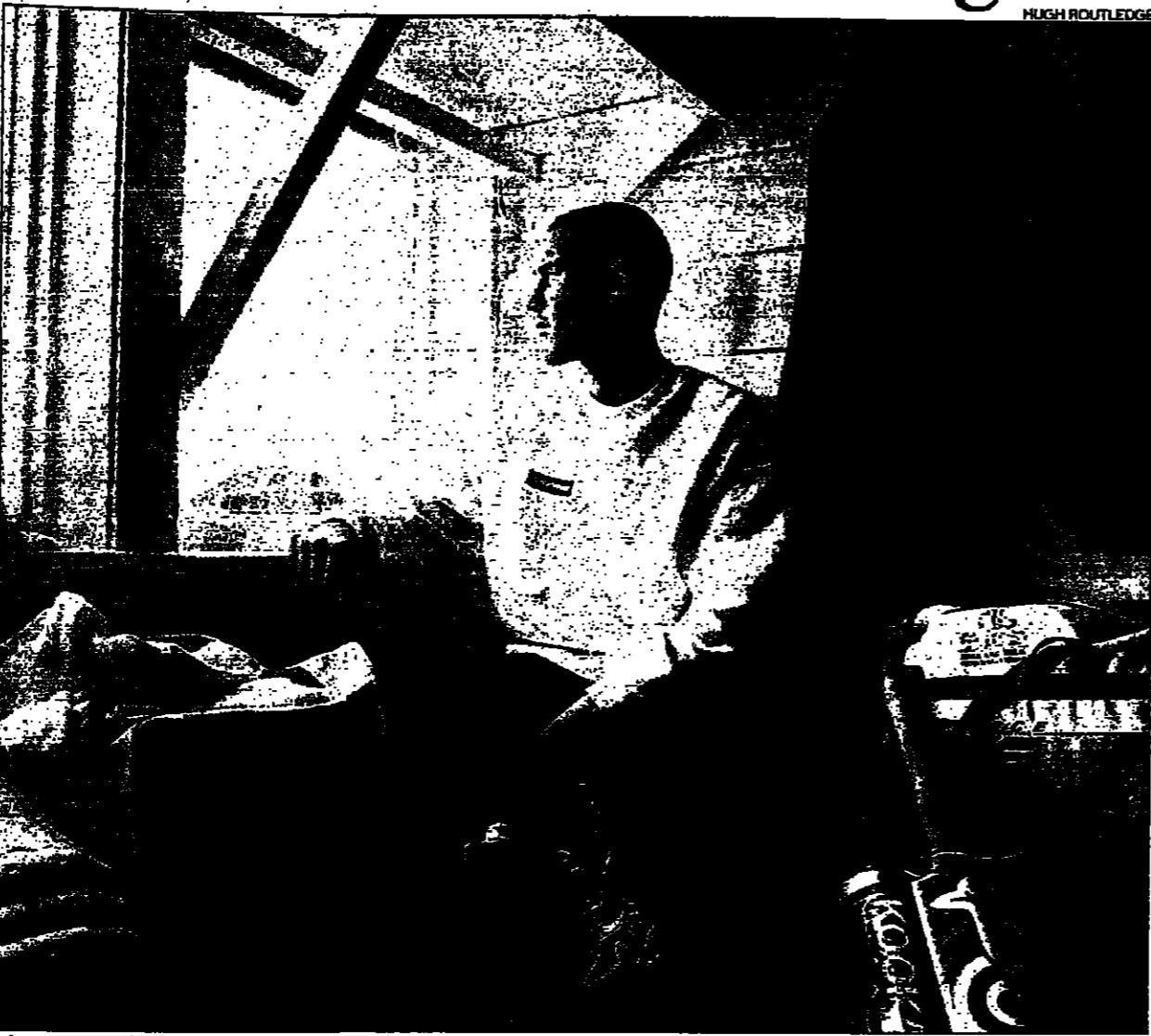
In a match reduced to 25 overs-a-side, Zimbabwe made a respectable, if not terribly challenging, 156 for nine. But their bowling, which was dreadful in the first match at Hove, was little better here.

Flintoff, who recently scored his maiden first-class century for Lancashire, caught the eye rather more than Hollioake, hitting seven sixes in his unbeaten 72, which came from only 43 balls.

Hollioake should have been run out when he had made 22, with England on 49 for two, but Colin Delpit, Zimbabwe's wicketkeeper, fumbled the return with the batsman still well short of his ground.

Flintoff and Hollioake seized the opportunity to enjoy themselves in the evening sunshine. Both brought up their half-centuries with sixes, Flintoff, chipping Bradley McCullum to mid-wicket, and Hollioake, with a magnificent straight drive off Andre Steyn, the opening bowler, who dropped a simple caught and bowled chance next ball.

Hollioake had been hit for a straight six by Andre Hoffman, which was probably the shot of the day. Should Hoff-



Ben Hollioake, watching the rain at Southampton yesterday, knows his personal outlook is bright

man's career not progress as far as he hopes, at least he can treasure that moment.

Zimbabwe had clearly given consideration to their batting after Hove, where they were grateful for the number of extras granted them by the England bowlers.

Yesterday, Douglas Marillier and Lance Malcolm-Brown set off in a much more serious vein, putting on 79 for

the first wicket. Marillier showed a particular fondness for Ryan Sidebottom, hitting him for four boundaries in five deliveries as the Yorkshireman strayed down the leg side in his opening over.

The teams now move on to play three four-day matches, a form of cricket which none of the touring side has yet experienced. But they will not be confronted by Hollioake nor

David Sales and Owais Shah. ZIMBABWE

D A Marillier c Steyn b Tudor 41
L S Malloch c Morris b Morris 40
T Marouski c Shastri b Morris 4
M A Vermaelen b Sidebottom 19
M A Vermaelen b Sidebottom 19
"A" J Esterman run out 1
J C Delport b Sidebottom 1
M J Shastri b Sidebottom 4
A S Shastri b Sidebottom 1
B D McCullum not out 0
Extras (b 8, w 7, nb 6) 19
Total (9 wickets, 25 overs) 156

1 A Engelbrecht did not bat.
2 D G Sales c Morris b Tudor 2-155,
112, 8-129, 9-136, 10-140, 11-145,
12-156, 13-159, 14-160, 15-161,
16-162, 17-163, 18-164, 19-165,
20-166, 21-167, 22-168, 23-169,
24-170, 25-171, 26-172, 27-173,
28-174, 29-175, 30-176, 31-177,
32-178, 33-179, 34-180, 35-181,
36-182, 37-183, 38-184, 39-185,
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RUGBY LEAGUE

St Helens point in direction of quarter-final

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WHEN the occasion demanded, St Helens produced their best display to defy the odds and maintain their interest in the world club championship. Penrith Panthers, their opponents in Sydney yesterday, although fancied to win by more than 46 points in order to reach the quarter-finals, were frustrated in victory.

Even if St Helens could not beat Penrith, they knew that by keeping the margin of defeat to nine points or fewer, the prize was a quarter-final play-off place at home against Paris Saint-Germain, tomorrow week. They scraped home by a deficit of six points — losing 32-26 — with five minutes to spare. Sean Long capped a fine display at stand-off with his side's fifth and final try.

Until Long's unchecked charge to the Penrith line, in the 75th minute, Warrington Wolves had occupied the play-off position in Europe pool A. The odds of advancement in the competition were seen to favour Penrith, particularly in the light of the 70-6 mauling

LIN-E UP

PROBABLE QUARTER-FINALS - Oct 4: Match A: Wigan v Hunter (Match B: London Broncos v Bradford). Match C: winners of European play-off between St Helens and Paris (Aug 13). Match D: Australia v Bradford. Oct 11: European semi-final (pool winners) v Australia; Australian semi-final (winners) v winners D Oct 18: Final (Auckland). *not including last night's match

the first time I've put a smile on when we've been beaten," he said. "As we showed, Saints are a side with plenty of attacking flair. What we found out again is that the English game lacks the defensive qualities."

McRae had every reason to criticise his side's one-on-one defence, which was almost

entirely responsible for Penrith's six tries, except that St Helens' scoring rate kept reasonable pace. The game had looked to be up after just 13 minutes, as Girdler and Puleta exploited some pitifully weak tackling. A try in response by Sullivan, brilliantly set up by Arnold from 80 metres out and irresistibly taken on by Newlove, set the defiant tone.

Newlove had meandered through the two previous games, but here the Great Britain centre was at his sharp, muscular best, as was Goulding, whose cut-out pass made room for Haigh to burst clear for the next St Helens try.

Moments earlier, Carter had

touched down from acting half back, although the Penrith captain should not have been awarded the score, as the preceding play-the-ball was clearly illegal.

It was their opponents' vulnerability to the counter-attack that led Penrith to imagine their target was reachable. Dominic streaked clear before the break, and there were again missed tackles galore, as Carter and Puleta combined to put away Girdler for his second try. Another score by Gower, and with half an hour to go, time was on Penrith's side.

The last quarter is when Australian sides habitually crank up a few gears. However, Penrith looked to be spent, and Arnold, Cunningham, who had another excellent game at hooker, combined with Long to ensure St Helens' future participation and the prospect of a quarter-final at Brisbane Broncos.

"We have extensive knowledge about setting up a new franchise and we can assist them with some of our first grade players. It's important, too, to put junior development programme in place."

The ASL and ARL are at least on speaking terms again, but a peace deal between the two organisations and unification for next season — still seen as some way off — will require the blessing of rival television networks, FoxTel, who screen all ASL games and Optus, the ARL backers.

Tom Currie is expected to renew his contract as coach of London for another two years before the match at the Stoop Memorial Ground tonight against Oldham Bears. The Broncos must win to retain any chance of catching Bradford Bulls at the top of the Stones Super League.

Referee: W Hamann (Sydney)

Mariners seeking link with Glasgow

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

HUNTER MARINERS, one of the new franchises in the Australasian Super League (ASL) this season, have confirmed their interest in establishing a "sister" club in Glasgow, similar to the arrangement that used to exist between Brisbane Broncos and London Broncos.

Bob Ferres, the Hunter chief executive, confirmed in an interview in the *League Express* newspaper yesterday that talks had taken place with Glasgow City Council and the Rugby Football League (RFL) about basing a Super League team at Partick Thistle Football Club's Firhill ground, which has hosted two Scotland international matches in the past year.

Ferres said that the plans were not dependent on possible changes to the domestic structure of the game in Australia next season. It is possible that a settlement to the long-running dispute between the ASL and the rival Australian Rugby League (ARL) would force a merger between Hunter and Newcastle Knights, their neighbours.

The council in Glasgow

have shown an interest in a team at Partick Thistle," Ferres said. "We have offered our services to the people who are driving it, and we are waiting to hear from Maurice Lindsay [the RFL chief executive] about how we can proceed."

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GOLF

Walker happy to be in van

By PATRICIA DAVIES

COLLEEN WALKER, a 40-year-old Floridian, who travels the US Tour in what she calls "a beast of a van" with her husband, Ron Bakich, ten-month old son, Tyler, and a chocolate-coloured labrador called Hershey, produced the round of her life to win the du Maurier Classic, the last women's major championship of the season, at Glen Abbey on Sunday.

It was five years and a baby since Walker last won a tournament and she had not had a top ten finish all season, but she swept past a horde of more obvious contenders. A classy 65 — 25 putts, no bogeys, eight birdies, including a four at the last, where she realised for the first time that she could win — equalised the course record. Her total of 276, 14 under par, left her two shots ahead of Liselene Neumann, of Sweden, pipped for the title for the third time in four years.

Walker danced a jig of

delight when she holed her putt on the 18th. "I don't know how long it was," Walker, who earned \$150,000 (about £110,000), said, "but it was worth a lot."

Lisa Hackney, a revelation in her first US season, was the leading Briton. The 29-year-old from Staffordshire had a 67, to share ninth place, her third top ten finish in a major

so far.

Next year the du Maurier,

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Invisible man still desperate to emerge from the shadows

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN ATHENS

STEVE BACKLEY not only wants the javelin gold medal from the world championships here today, he regards it as imperative. "I need it," Backley said, almost desperate. Only then will he cease to become the figure he describes as "the invisible man".

Backley recognises that, for all he has achieved, he must take a global title if he is to enjoy lasting recognition of the kind which Jonathan Edwards, Linford Christie, Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell are guaranteed. Backley, aged 28, is a former world record holder, International Amateur Athletic Federation athlete of the year, and has been Commonwealth and European champion for the last seven years, but still he feels unfulfilled.

Finishing second in the Olympic Games last year was an extraordinary achievement, given that three months earlier he had undergone surgery on an Achilles tendon and was on crutches for six weeks. But runner-up will not do him this time. "I won an

TIMETABLE

All times BST
TODAY: 06.00 Decathlon, 100m
06.10 Women's discus qualifying round group A; 06.30 Women's 400m hurdles 1st round, 07.00 Decathlon, long jump, 07.15, 110m hurdles, first round, 07.30 Women's 400m hurdles, second round; 08.30 Decathlon shot, 13.45 Decathlon high jump, 16.00 Men's 800m second round, 16.30 Women's shot qualifying round, 16.45 Men's long jump, 16.50 Women's 100m second round, 17.00 Men's long jump final, 17.40 Women's 1500m final, 17.55 Women's 10,000m final, 18.40 Decathlon 400m, 19.05 Men's 400m final

Olympic silver medal from nothing, no training," Backley said.

He steps in the arena here having enjoyed his best year's training since 1991 and he would be hugely disappointed to finish second again.

Jan Zelezny is a competitor who has stood as tall among javelin throwers as Michael Johnson has among 400 metres runners in recent years, without having fallen this season. Zelezny, from the Czech Republic, is the world and Olympic champion, and possesses a world record which, for now at least, appears out of the reach of other throwers.

"Had it not been for Jan, I would have cleaned up," Backley said. He was not only second to Zelezny in Atlanta but at the world championships, in Gothenburg, in 1995. The margin at the Olympics was only 72 centimetres.

It was the difference between recognition and another one of those occasions when Backley is applauded for a day then forgotten.

Though he would be wrong to admit it, even to think it, Backley must expect Zelezny



Backley is a picture of concentration as he throws to qualify for the final of the men's javelin event in Athens

to win again here. However, the Briton is probably the best placed to take advantage should his rhythm desert him.

It is hard to see beyond Zelezny, Backley, Kostas Gatsioudis and Boris Henry from Germany, is always a lively competitor, and Gatsioudis is the host nation's best hope for a gold medal during the nine days of these championships. Backley, though, thinks that the presence of Gatsioudis may work in his favour.

The last occasion that Backley defeated Zelezny when an international gold medal at stake was at the 1994 European championships in

Helsinki. Finland is the spiritual home of javelin throwers and no event generated a greater atmosphere among spectators.

Gunnell is hoping that enthusiastic support for the home man may prove too much for Zelezny. "I am pleased that it will, more than likely, be her last appearance in a global championships. For Gunnell, who won the world title in 1993 with a world record, retirement beckons at the end of this or next season.

No longer is Gunnell able to live with the best and when, in all probability, Deon Hemmings, from Jamaica, and Tonja Buford-Bailey and Kim Batten, two Americans,

looked more comfortable than Backley in the qualifying round, but there was little to choose between the distances that they achieved.

Gunnell makes her entrance at these championships today, in the first round of the 400 metres hurdles, knowing that it will, more than likely, be her last appearance in a global championships. For Gunnell, who won the world title in 1993 with a world record, retirement beckons at the end of this or next season.

Zelezny, whose world record is 98.48 metres, threw 98.16 to win the Olympics. "I think it is going to take the distance that won last year just to get a medal here," Backley said. Gatsioudis and Zelezny, both in his favour.

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lead the chase for medals in the final on Friday, Gunnell will be pleased if she is part of the final. Such has been her form of late, and her ill-fortune with injury in recent seasons, that, to reach that stage would be a triumph.

Colin Jackson set a world record when winning the world title in 1993, at the same world championships in which Gunnell reached her zenith. Jackson joins Tony Jarrett, who has finished second in each of the last two world championships, in attempting to give Britain a medal in the 100 metres hurdles that begin today. Neither has been in his best form this season.

Given these difficulties, O'Sullivan will no doubt carry uncertainties in her head as she goes to the start today, but the absence of Kelly Holmes, the Briton who is fastest 1,500 metres runner in the world this year, and of Svetlana Masterkova, Russia's double Olympic champion, has eased the route to a medal.

In the 1,500 metres semi-finals, John Mayock progressed to the final, but the field on Wednesday is stacked against him. Hicham El Guerrouj, from Morocco, and Noureddine Morelli, from Algeria, are likely to be the main protagonists. El Guerrouj appears ready to make amends for his fall in the Olympic final, an incident that gave Morelli a trouble-free route to the gold.

Such is the lack of an obvious favourite, O'Sullivan must be hopeful. Though it is difficult to forecast, Kuteke

metres in the world championship in 1995, she arrived in Atlanta as one of the hottest of favourites.

O'Sullivan, though, soon found herself struggling in her 5,000 metres heat at a pace that should have represented a jog for her. She dropped out before coming here. She withdrew from grand prix races in Oslo and Nice, concerned at the case of disappointment.

After O'Sullivan returned home from the Atlanta Olympic Games last year, having attempted two events and reached the final in neither, she was surprised to receive medals through the post from children who, giving theirs to her, expressed sympathy in a way that touched her. Having won the European 3,000 metres title in 1994, a year in which she set a world 2,000 metres record and European 3,000 metres record, and won the gold medal for the 5,000

A new track season arrived and, with it, a chance to start again but still the old form was missing. She finished fourth in the Paris grand prix and eleventh in the British grand prix in Sheffield in June. That was her last race before coming here. She withdrew from grand prix races in Oslo and Nice, concerned at the case of disappointment.

Attempting to salvage a treasure from the wreckage, O'Sullivan went to the International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix final in Milan in September, but failed to finish the 5,000 metres. After rest, followed by a good winter's training, she went to the world cross-country championships in Turin in March, believing that she could win. She finished ninth.

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O'Sullivan seeking reversal of fortune

BY DAVID POWELL

SONJA O'SULLIVAN will today attempt to mark the end of the worst 12 months of her competitive career when she appears in the final of the women's 1,500 metres. However, Ireland's children may be digging out their medals, in case of disappointment.

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marks upset the host nation, particularly as Athens is attempting to win the right to stage the Olympic Games in

Not consonant with widening his audience

Like me, you probably switched on your telly to watch BBC2's latest *Summer Dance* offering, called CRWDSPCR, and were joined in discovery that it wasn't, after all, about folk-dancing in one of those disengaged Welsh villages like Bwthch or Cwmfawr, but about the making of a new show called *Summer Dance*. The New York-based choreographer Merce Cunningham. It's pronounced "crowd spacer," since you ask. This vowel starvation was the only really jarringly note in Elton Captain's film. It reminded you of those vowel-free job adverts you used to see in London Underground trains: "If you can fit us a bit, we can fit you a lot." I'm not exactly sure, since we mostly

haven't understood it, but I sure as hell know I couldn't get my body into *that position!* Even for those who have always quite liked modern dance but never felt they had fully grasped the vocabulary, it is disconcerting to discover that when transcribed in a more familiar alphabet it is spelled CRWDSPCR. It is the sort of thing that makes you give up in despair, having decided that the whole thing may be pretentious RBBH.

Cunningham seemed to be doing much of his choreographing on a computer; pressing buttons sent multicoloured dancers gyrating and bouncing around the computer screen, like a rather balletic version of *Donkey Kong*. Captain also captured the way Mark Lancaster's jockey-inspired costume designs and John King's slide guitar score were interwoven into Cunningham's dance movements to create... well, I'm not exactly sure, since we mostly

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Merle is going the right way about winning over modern-dance agnostics, whose basic critical attitude to contemporary dance can be summed up in the phrase "I may

You can help wandering if

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

backdrop to Cunningham's dance movements you realise that it really is a tuneless rumble.

The programme had a bit of extra spice in that one of the dancers in Cunningham's company was called Michael Cole. I kept an eye out to see if it was the same Michael Cole who was once the BBC's royal correspondent and is now chief spokesman for the Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed.

You wouldn't be able to hear

I couldn't spot him for sure, but he would have the legs for it.

There was a keen attempt to keep Welshness out of Tiger Bay as well. Or TGR BY as Merce Cunningham might put it. But after three episodes, BBC2's newest soap still seems too slippery to get hold of. There are certainly no sheep, no miners, no male voice choirs, but there isn't much suspense either. Instead there is screaming, plenty of shouting and some lip-biting. Last night Betsy got buried, but not before 16-year-old Jodie — who wears alarming multicoloured nail varnish on nails so long they would make a mole envious — slid into bed with 40-year-old Roy. Again Roy is a man who plays sex scenes with the duvet pulled right under his neck, giving the impression that he didn't have time to undress when he was called to the set. Or perhaps his mum always comes to tickle his boy up, even when he's

making whoopees with a schoolgirl.

The publicity that preceded this series boasted: "It will be the first since Hayley Mills's appearance in the 1958 film *Tiger Bay* that Cardiff has truly starred in a major way." Maybe there was a reason. It's just a theory.

Watching All Mod Cons *Jaz Switch On* (BBC2) It was hard to decide which had changed more since the 1950s — the world of housework following the arrival of time-saving electrical appliances such as washing machines, or the world of television advertising which was then still peopled by women who delivered their lines as if they were taking their final elocution exam at Lucy Clayton's finishing school. "Your sapsaws stay clean, and the err you breathe stays fresh," said the posh lady selling the virtue of cooking with electricity. And wasn't

Karie Boyle in those ads that chirruped: "Hoover beats as it sweeps as it cleans?"

On the doorstep, however, hard-selling was as common as Marson's Cardinal Red tile polish. Vacuum-cleaner salesmen seduced housewives into buying a Hoover with a sales pitch that involved sucking up carpet dirt through a handkerchief tied to the end of the Hoover's suction tube and showing this filthy hanky to the startled woman. "Have you ever had a fire?" he'd ask her. "No." "Have you got fire insurance?" "Well, yes." "So, Madam, you've got fire insurance even though you've never had a fire, but you haven't got a Hoover even though you can now see the dirt that poses a daily threat to your children's health." OK, so it wouldn't secure him the post of Wykeham Professor of Logic at Oxford, but it seemed to shift plenty of vacuum-cleaners.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (5/747)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (52105)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (52022)
- 9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (52052)
- 9.30 Esther: Abandon (T) (52038)
- 10.20 The Roadshow Collection (T) (52040)
- 10.45 Caron Cooper's Cooking with Confidence Baking (249034)
- 11.00 News (T) and weather (226178)
- 11.05 Due South (T) (52051)
- 11.50 Good Neighbours (502025)
- 12.00 News (T) and weather (483678)
- 12.05pm Wipeout (T) (505389)
- 12.35 Neighbours (T) (520259)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (52022)
- 1.30 Regional News (58283476)
- 1.40 Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) Photographer Dick Van Dyke plots the elaborate murder of his wife (T) (538640)
- 3.10 Olney (T) (1220056)
- 3.55 Well Worth a Visit: Russell Colless Museum (7332575)
- 4.00 Popeye (238553) 4.10 Flights (228553) 4.35 Pirates (454704) 5.00 Newsround (T) (2299105) 5.20 Dylan Grove (T) (520418)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (520721)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (52022)
- 6.30 Regional News (508)
- 7.00 Holidays Out Kite Humble learns to play polo in Devon. Jayne Evans visits Stapleford Park, Leicestershire; Dougie Vipond visits Amsterdam. Plus: a bed-and-breakfast report from southern England and Cowes Week (5740)
- 7.30 EastEnders: Sarah fails to reach a compromise with Ted (T) (222)
- 8.00 Wildlife on Our Doorstep Attenborough explores the world of the wild boar (T) (52050)
- 8.30 Keeping Up Appearances Hyacinth volunteers to clean the local church. With Patricia Routledge (T) (T) (545)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (1037)
- 9.30 Crimewatch UK Special edition combining appeals for help in cracking unsolved cases with a look back at how criminals were brought to book (T) (521724) WALES 9.30 Answering Back (53853) 10.00 Crimewatch UK (509124) 10.45 Made in Wales (443832)
- 10.15 The X-Files: Dad! Kalm Mulder and Scully get stranded aboard a Naval destroyer in Norway while investigating why its crew have died of premature ageing (T) (T) (320198)
- 11.00 You Decide John Humphrys invites a studio audience to debate a topical issue (598327)
- 11.55 Fathom (1987) Tongue-in-cheek espionage romp, starring Raquel Welch as a glamorous sky-diving spy assigned to retrieve a bomb-triggering device lost in the Mediterranean. Directed by James H. Laurenson (545740) WALES 11.55 The X-Files (520383) 12.40 Film: Fathom (47815) 2.15 News, headlines and weather (179) (5205)
- 1.30am Weather (3675475)

BBC2

- 6.00am O U: Fontainebleau: the Changing Image of Kingship (2148399)
- 6.25 World Championship Athletics Early action includes Sally Gunnell in the 400m hurdles and the opening events in the decathlon. Plus: live coverage of the first round of the men's 110m hurdles featuring both Tony Jarrett and Colin Jackson (797021)
- 6.30 Noddy (T) (5884203) 8.10 Raccoons (T) (521765) 8.25 Get Your Own Back (T) (51598872) 8.30 Spider-Man (T) (520569) 8.30 Glad Rags (T) (T) (52143) 10.00 Peter Pan and the Pirates (T) (T) (74514) 10.25 Coke Coke (T) (5205834) 10.30 Spider (T) (520194) 10.45 Telebabies (T) (52065)
- 11.15 Harry and the Hendersons (T) (T) (487512) 11.40 Moon Over Miami (T) (T) (5098872) 12.25 Songs For the Love of It (T) (483384)
- 12.30 See Heard (T) (T) (520229) 1.00 Menus and Music (T) (5202698) 1.15 Glynn Christian Tales Royal Thailand (1009350) 1.30 Stockbusters (T) (5222229)
- 2.05 The National World Classics: Atlantic Basin 2—Ocean of Light. Spectacular footage of some of the weird and wonderful life forms found inhabiting the Atlantic ocean (T) (5105273) 3.00 News: Regional News (T) (5086230) 3.25 Lifetimes: In a Day Tim Darby (T) (276929)
- 3.30 World Championships: Athletics. Live action from Athens. Steve Backley in the final of the men's javelin; Kelly Holmes in the women's 1500m. Plus: the conclusion of the women's 10,000m and men's long jump as well as the second round of the men's 800m (T) (788124)
- 4.00 Call My Bluff (T) (T) (7220)
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- 5.00 Ainsley Jamaican-style (5.30pm)
- 5.30 Alansay's Barbecue Bible (5.6) The unique flavours of Jamaica including a modified version of the island's favourite dish, jerk pork (3037)
- 6.00 Leaving of Liverpool Diana set in the 1950s. Two children are uprooted from Liverpool and sent to Australia. With Christine Tremarco, Kevin Jones and Frances Barber (T) (T) (3768)
- 6.30 Neighbours (T) (520721)
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HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (7945327)
- 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (T) (5559921)
- 9.55 Judge Judy (T) (3227747)
- 10.20 News (T) (5212485)
- 10.25 Regional News (T) (6211765)
- 10.29 HTV Crimestoppers (6211768)
- 10.30 Marilyn and Me (1991) starring Susan Griffiths, Terry Moore and Sandy McPeak. Dramatisation of journalist Roger Stater's alleged love affair with the screen goddess. Directed by John Patterson (5128996)
- 12.20pm Regional News (4832959)
- 12.30 News (T) and weather (1313056)
- 12.55 Shortland Street (139874)
- 1.25 Home and Away (T) (14336308)
- 1.50 Eric's Lifestyle. The healing properties of herbs (T) (5810222)
- 2.20 The Private Life of Princess Diana (T) (5131747)
- 3.20 News (T) (2712143)
- 3.25 Regional News (T) (2711414)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (T) (5658171) 3.40 Ozzie the Owl (5617747) 3.50 Zoot the Dog (5846239) 4.00 Scooby-Doo (T) (25143) 4.10 The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (T) (2303143) 4.20 Captain Star (5205227)
- 4.45 The Scoop (T) (5205216)
- 5.10 Highway to Heaven: Inner Limits Jonathan and Mark offer their help to a family whose life revolves around their disabled son with Michael Landon (222) (284940)
- 5.40 News (T) and weather (563037)
- 6.00 Home and Away (T) (T) (714124)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (516143)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (T) (476)
- 7.00 Emmerdale Kim decides the time has come to make a stand and Lisa lays the law down with Albert and Marion (T) (2038)
- 7.30 People and Pets New series focusing on the relationship between humans and their pets, presented by Jenny Hobson. The mysterious disappearance of cats in a Gloucestershire village and a rabbit with a middle ear infection (360)
- 8.00 The Bill: These Foolish Things When a baby is snatched from its pram, a seedy case of blackmail ensues (T) (1055)
- 8.30 The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna includes the results of palmist Robin Low's observations on the palm prints of a mystery guest (whose identity will be revealed), and a Hungarian strengthen who can, with a rope clenched in his teeth, pull three loaded buses (T) (993)
- 9.00 A Few Good Men (1992) Navy lawyers Tom Cruise and Demi Moore are assigned to defend two young Marines accused of murdering a colleague, but their investigation uncovers evidence of corruption in high places — with tough commanding officer Jack Nicholson their prime suspect. Directed by Rob Reiner. Continued after the News (T) (3747)
- 10.00 News at Ten (T) (64722)
- 10.30 Regional News (T) (459869)
- 10.40 A Few Good Men Concluded (3454745)
- 11.50 Animated 2 (573872)
- 12.05pm Platypus Man New comedy series (5326902)
- 12.30pm Learning Zone: O U: Building by Numbers (77877) 1.00 Regressing to Quality (74341) 1.30 Errors Aren't Forever (50490) 2.00 Summer Nights (74099)
- 4.00 Languages (31317)
- 7.30 Queen Elizabeth II Cup (5581105)
- 7.45 BBC Young Reporter Awards (5581106)
- 7.50 BBC Young Reporter Consulting Championships (5056227)
- 8.00 GMTV (7945327)
- 8.30 BBC Young Reporter Awards (5581106)
- 8.45 BBC Young Reporter Consulting Championships (5056227)
- 9.00 BBC Young Reporter Consulting Championships (5056227)
- 9.30 BBC Young Reporter Consulting Championships (5056227)
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